

The Middlebury Campus

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Since 1905

SGA leader resigns following discipline

By Kelly Janis
NEWS EDITOR

Bobby Joe Smith III '09 stepped down as Student Government Association (SGA) president this week after being suspended from the College for plagiarism. In accordance with the procedure stipulated in the College Handbook, Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCCOCC) Antoinette Rangel '09 will assume the dual role of President and SCCOCC until a special election is held in the coming weeks.

Smith began the school year with a viral infection of the lungs and chest cavity, which eventually spread to his sinuses. Because he did not have health insurance at the time, he was unable to secure appropriate medical treatment. When he was prescribed medication late in the fall, an "ongoing problem" with the drug conspired with demanding extracurricular responsibilities and "personal situations both on and off campus" to leave him "critically behind" in his courses. When Smith failed to complete his work at the conclusion of the semester, several professors granted him extensions into January. As assignments for his Winter Term class accumulated, Smith's stress level mounted. He said he "wasn't thinking very straight" when he handed in work after neither eating nor sleeping

for two days.

"I didn't go back and check over those assignments and make sure everything was done correctly, and I had a number of citation problems," Smith said. "I improperly cited a number of sources, and missed others entirely."

Smith said he took "full responsibility for the infraction" before the Judicial Board, which ruled to suspend him for the spring term.

"It's embarrassing that the situation happened, especially as a senior, but it's not something I feel really down on myself about," Smith said. "People make mistakes. It was an accident. What can you do other than

SEE CODE, PAGE 4



Laurice Fox

Student committee recommends new \$51,622 comprehensive fee

By Brian Fung
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The College's comprehensive fee could rise by the lowest margin in recent memory next month, as Old Chapel continues debating how best to grapple with the nationwide

economic crisis. In its February meeting last weekend, the Board of Trustees authorized the Office of the President to raise the comprehensive fee, now at \$49,210, by 2.3 to 4.9 percent for the 2009-2010 academic year.

A 4.9-percent increase would put the total cost of one year's Middlebury education, excluding the \$380 annual Student Activities Fee, at \$51,622 — though President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz was quick to assure troubled students Saturday that such a steep increase was unlikely given the state of most families' finances. At the same time, concerns over higher-educational inflation are likely to stop the College from issuing an increase of as low as 2.3 percent.

A presentation to the trustees last weekend by the Student Comprehensive Fee Committee took the middle road, recommending a four-percent hike. If approved,

SEE TRUSTEES, PAGE 2

College finances hold up, for now

By Derek Schlickeisen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

While the ongoing economic crisis has already cost the College 20 percent of its endowment this fiscal year alone, administrators may take a certain measure of comfort from the fact that Middlebury is weathering the current financial storm comparatively well.

That was the message that Investure, the private firm which manages the College's portfolio, had for the Board of Trustees at the

group's traditional February meeting this weekend. Despite falling to \$684 million — a far cry from its June 2007 high of \$936 million — Middlebury's endowment has out-performed that of almost every other NESCAC school since the stock market began its precipitous decline late this summer.

The picture will likely get worse before it gets better: losses in hard-to-value assets such as private equity have not yet been reported, and Middlebury (along with other colleges) is bracing for worse financial

reports in the future. Middlebury's losses, according to Chief Financial Officer Patrick Norton, will likely reach 25 percent in the final tally.

"The markets have been a disaster, and it's painful to watch hundreds of millions of dollars just disappear," said President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz. "But we aren't having to take the dire steps that some other schools are."

With the elimination of 100 staff

SEE NATIONAL, PAGE 3



Courtesy

Stonyfield Farm president Gary Hirshberg will give the class of 2009's commencement address on May 24.

Dairy king to address seniors

By Brian Fung
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Gary Hirshberg, chairman, president and self-described "CEO" of Stonyfield Farm, will deliver Middlebury's commencement address on May 24 to the graduating class of 2009. At an event expected to draw more than 5,000, Hirshberg and six others will also receive honorary degrees from the College.

Since joining Stonyfield Farm in 1983, Hirshberg has been an outspoken proponent of sustainable business practices — making him, according to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, "somewhat of a maverick in the business community."

"He's articulate, bright and

committed to something that mirrors and reflects the College's own values," said Liebowitz.

Stonyfield Farm is one of the world's top yogurt manufacturers. Based in Londonderry, N.H., the company claims over \$300 million in annual sales and promotes environmentally friendly agriculture.

Hirshberg, 54, is a New Hampshire native who later became one of the first graduates to earn a degree from Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. After he began working for the Rural Education Center, a small organic farm school in his home state, Hirshberg and school founder Samuel Kaymen began making yogurt to offset the institution's costs. Together, the two milked the cows, pitched their product to consumers and made deliveries. Hirshberg and Kaymen committed fully to yogurt when they realized that their message about sustainable agriculture could spread farther and faster as a company than as a school.

"We had seven cows, and no idea what we were doing," Hirshberg joked in a phone interview. "But we had a good yogurt recipe and were

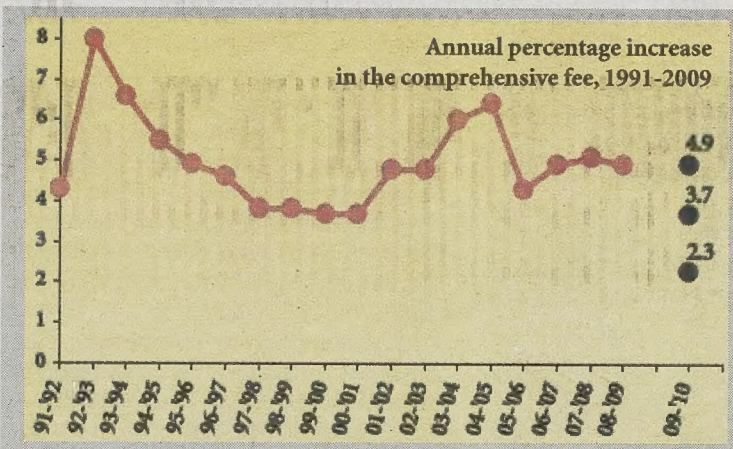
good salespeople."

Prior to his career in dairy products, Hirshberg was the executive director of the New Alchemy Institute, an environmental research organization in Hatchville, Mass. Until its closure in 1991, the New Alchemy Institute pursued research into organic gardening, aquaculture and bioshelters, which are advanced greenhouses capable of supporting fish and insect populations in addition to plant life.

Hirshberg has received a series of local and national awards, including *BusinessNH Magazine's* "Business Leader of the Year" and "New Hampshire's 1998 Small Business Person of the Year" from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He is also a board member at — among others — the Dannon Company and Honest Tea.

The Stonyfield front man is known less for his actions than his ideas. For Pooja Shahani '09, a member of the Honorary Degree Committee that approved Hirshberg's selection, those ideas mean more than

SEE HIRSHBERG, PAGE 3



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

BIOMASS PLANT OPENS TO CRITICS AND CHAMPIONS
New facility reduces carbon emissions by 40 percent, see page 5.

this week



1 in 8,200 people
Get to know community member and owner of Otter Creek Used Books, page 8.



Who's the busiest bee?
Check out the latest addition to features and find out, page 15.

Drawing the line
Campus cartoonist Sam Dakota Miller is on display, page 19.





overseas briefing

Poitiers or Perfection?

by Livingston Burgess '10

POITIERS — "The chairs will be rearranged once the movement is over."

So proclaimed the chalkboard at the front of yet another empty lecture hall, as I sighed and bummed the university wireless network, since my otherwise lovely room outside downtown Poitiers lacks Internet.

For two weeks now, classes at the University of Poitiers have come to a halt as students and professors strike in response to the new policies of the educational establishment. I can't hope to explain or comprehend the list of "revindications" leveled against the government, but to give an idea, a central complaint is the downsizing of some thousands of post-secondary teaching posts.

The words on that chalkboard struck me as an excellent summary of the link, in the French national consciousness, between the actions of a central authority and a slightly listless pack of twenty-year-olds clad in virtually identical black wool "manteaux" intent on preventing me from learning about Descartes' contributions to Renaissance thought. They also reminded me of a gulf, both subtle and immense, that I have observed between French and American mentalities. As far as I've constructed it, it boils down to this: the French believe in perfectibility; Americans believe in perfection.

The French public university is not without its faults. Administration is diffuse and incoherent; professor communication is haphazard. The buildings look like the unfortunate product of aliens trying to mate with the local landscape. It possesses, however, one marked advantage, in that it is virtually free. To everyone. It's a major outlook adjustment coming from the land of the infamous \$50K price tag.

The French recognize that this system is good, and relatively fair. However, the innate French belief in perfectibility tells them it can be better. The chain of thought goes like this: the French are perfect (an implicit assertion I have never heard here, but always felt), therefore the system is perfectible. If the chairs have to be thrown out of whack in the process of perfection, so be it. They will be rearranged when the movement is over.

Americans, on the other hand, believe in the perfection of their systems. Democracy is the prime example, along with welfare-state capitalism and whichever side of the designated hitter rule they come down on (whatever you think, I disagree with you). The structure is fine. It is ourselves that we find lacking... this is why we are perpetually searching for self-improvement, and it is the origin of the value placed upon hard work in the American ideal (which complements American faith in a perfect, fair and hard-work-rewarding system).

What does this mean for me, looking with American eyes at France? It means I see a belief that we are equal to the challenge of making the world perfect. I'm not sure I agree: I'm not sure whether I pity them their naïveté or envy them their faith. And that is the dichotomy that gets to the heart of everything humans believe. I'm sure Descartes thought about it, but I may not find out, this semester, what he thought exactly.

Carnival tradition still in question

By Catherine Ahearn

STAFF WRITER

This past weekend marked Middlebury College's 86th annual Winter Carnival, the College's oldest tradition. The three-day event did not disappoint students with its usual salad bar of events aimed at widespread student participation and engagement. In light of the current financial crisis, however, the time away from classes and sizeable spending did not go by without heavy criticism from faculty and students alike.

Each year, Winter Carnival is looked upon as a weekend when students are apt to feel a deeper connection to the College by attending and participating in events that have existed through numerous generations of Middlebury graduates. The events began on Thursday evening with the beginning of

the snow sculpture contest, followed by an acoustic performance by Chris Myers at The Grille, a bonfire and fireworks on Ross Hill and a performance by Orange Crush in the McCullough Social Space.

After two full days of races on Friday and Saturday, the Middlebury Ski Team came in third place, just behind Dartmouth and UVM, with 834 points. Students gathered at the Snow Bowl and Rikert Ski Touring Center at the Bread Loaf School of English to watch their classmates and enjoy the sunny winter weather.

Unlike other programs on campus, it appeared that nothing about Winter Carnival was scaled back to account for the recent drastic budget cuts. Center for Campus Activities and Leadership Director Doug Adams explained that Winter Carnival is funded by

sources set aside for students' social events.

"[Winter Carnival] is completely student run," said Adams. "It's funded through a combination of sources like the student activities fee and events fees. One of the reasons why they charge for the activities is that that's what's paying for them."

Taking account of students' possibly precarious financial situation, tickets for Winter Carnival events were reduced to nearly half of what they were last year.

"I don't think we'll see Winter Carnival go away because of budget cuts, we'll just see it change to adjust for the times," Adams said.

Despite these precautions, both students and faculty members on campus still have very strong opinions for and against the status of Winter Carnival.

"I think students themselves are going to have to face the question of perception here in the community — the moral burden that they might have," said Professor of Russian Thomas Beyer. "In spite of the economic crisis, we are not going to stop celebrating the fun things in our lives. But this financial crisis does touch people, and students, as members of the community, should be sensitive and aware of that."

One member of the faculty who appears more concerned with this question of per-

SEE CARNIVAL, PAGE 4



Eleanor Horowitz

Students kick off Winter Carnival, alias "Heat it up to melt it down," at the annual bonfire.

Trustees advise hike in fees by 2.3-4.9 percent

Final decision to come in late March

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

the next academic year's comprehensive fee could stand at \$51,179. The four-percent rate of increase would rank among the lowest the College has seen in the past 18 years.

The College's competitors have also indicated they are willing to limit the rate of increase in their comprehensive fees for the 2009-2010 academic year. According to Liebowitz, most other institutions in the NESCAC athletic league are considering a 3.5- to 3.7-percent jump.

A similar move by Old Chapel would bring the cost of college to between \$50,933 and \$51,031.

Liebowitz, whose office is responsible for offering a final number, is unlikely to make an official announcement about the comprehensive fee until late March, when the College will have enough information about the endowment to predict its behavior over the summer and into the fall. In the past 20 months, the endowment's value has plummeted by more than \$300 million.

How other colleges decide to raise their fees may play a large role in influencing Liebowitz' final decision, but no institution can afford to cut tuition, room and board too aggressively. Higher-education inflation — currently estimated at 3.6 percent — effectively sets a floor for comprehensive

fee planning, according to Caroline Woodworth '09, chair of the Student Comprehensive Fee Committee.

"If Middlebury wants to grow and continue to offer important services," said Woodworth in a phone interview, "that 3.6 percent was the lowest we could look to increase the comprehensive fee."

Despite Woodworth's commitment to reducing the financial burden on students and their families, the trustees' recommendation comes as the cost of attending Middlebury is expected to exceed \$50,000. The milestone is one that the College came close to surpassing when it announced the comprehensive fee for the current academic year, but is virtually assured to do with the coming round of fee hikes.

Only a handful of peer institutions share Middlebury's place among the most expensive schools in the nation. Among NESCAC institutions, Wesleyan has already broken the \$50,000 barrier, with a current upperclassman comprehensive fee of \$50,722. A 3.7-percent increase for the coming academic year would bring the cost of a Wesleyan education to nearly \$52,600.

In New York, Sarah Lawrence College charges its students \$48,906 for tuition and room fees. Adding the standard first-year meal plan brings the total costs to \$51,080. A projected 3.7-percent increase would see the total rise to nearly \$53,000.

If Middlebury wants to grow and offer services, 3.6 percent was the lowest we could look to increase the comprehensive fee.

— Caroline Woodworth '09

Middbrief

Community Council

by Hillary Hall

The Community Council held a brief meeting on Feb. 17. After all members approved the minutes, Co-Chair Antoinette Rangel '09 introduced new member Lizzie Horvitz '10 to the rest of the group. Horvitz, an environmental studies major, called her new position an exciting opportunity.

The first motion, brought to the table by Acting Dean of the College Gus Jordan, concerned a change in the handbook language concerning alcohol citations.

"We're trying to insert discretion where possible," Jordan said, referring to the simplified policy, which draws attention away from students who receive some citations over the entire course of their time at Middlebury and instead towards those who receive several over a short period of time.

"A vast majority of students would like there to be a more rigorous approach towards students who are disrupting the community," said Director of Health and Wellness Education Jyoti Daniere, a member of the committee behind the changes. "If you can't drink differently, maybe this isn't the place for you."

All members, with just one abstention, approved bringing the policy alteration to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz and his staff. Daniere and Dean of Wonnacott Commons Matt Longman will present the changes to the Board of Trustees in the coming weeks.

The Council next moved on to a vote regarding the Judicial Board. Associate Dean of the College Karen Guttentag asked Council members to approve a more efficient selection board and process. As of now, there are two boards that evaluate candidates for Judicial Board positions — Guttentag suggested reducing that to one to save time and energy. All members of the Council approved the motion to allow Guttentag to enact this change. Additionally, Cordelia Ross '09 and Assistant Professor of Spanish Juana Gamero de Coca volunteered to represent the Community Council on the selection board.

This vote concluded official business for the Council. To wrap up the meeting, members discussed their goals for the coming semester. Ross mentioned improving the lighting on campus, while Rangel suggested bringing back Bookstore Manager Robert Jansen to discuss the new business.

Bookstore sales down 8 percent

Middbrief

By Simran Bhalla

STAFF WRITER

Sales at the Bookstore are down by eight percent from last semester, according to Bookstore Manager Robert Jansen. For the first time, the Bookstore released course textbook lists online two weeks before the beginning of the spring term.

The decision, brought into practice by the efforts of the Student Government Association, was in response to demand from students who found that they could often purchase their course books online or at other bookstores for much lower prices than the bookstore offers. While the release of book lists seems to have affected sales, it is not the only factor at play, according to Jansen.

"Renovation played a role ... we are essentially running three stores right now," said Jansen. "It's hard to tell what played the biggest role. It's too early to make firm conclusions."

He said that the Bookstore will have more concrete information on the effect of the book lists in the fall, once they have additional data.

The Bookstore also recently changed its return policy with the introduction of the Panther Points program. Students may now only return books for store credit until the first Friday of the semester. However, Jansen reports that one of several changes planned for the Bookstore involves creating a better return policy that is more sensitive to students who change or drop classes after the first week. Other changes include updating the Bookstore's Web site so that students will be able to purchase their books online starting this fall. To encourage students to keep their

business on campus, the Bookstore routinely offers giveaways, shopping sprees and other promotional events.

In addition, the student-created Web site Middbay.com — now a month old — has provided an outlet for students to buy and sell books directly from one another. Isshaq Sadaqah '11, one of the founders of Middbay, said that about 40 to 60 book listings have been posted this semester. Middbay also offers an Internet-wide price comparison tool, which has received over 400 requests over the past 15 days alone.

"[Middbay activity suggests] that people may not be so interested in exchanging books on campus as much as finding good deals online," Sadaqah said.

Until now, the site has mainly gotten attention through its Facebook group and word of mouth, but Middbay plans to launch a publicity campaign soon, so more participation is anticipated.

"Once we launch our publicity campaign, it will be more clear as to what the demand looks like," said Sadaqah.

Professors are conscious that many of their required texts are expensive at the Bookstore and thus make efforts to put as many readings as possible on library or electronic reserve. However, for pricier books that cannot be put on reserve, professors still try to make them available more cheaply to students.

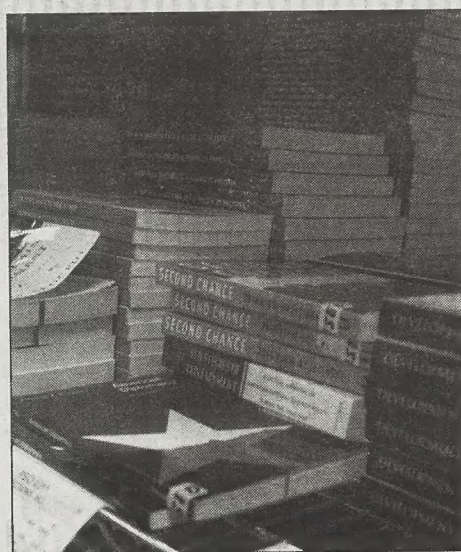
Assistant Professor of Film and Media Culture Hope Tucker worked with both the Bookstore and the local Vermont Book Shop to try and order an independent-press book by Michel Gondry, but neither store was able to get a discount, so Tucker ordered copies of the book herself for students to purchase.

"The best thing for us all is if books can be acquired locally, but I thought more students might end up reading the book if the price was low," said Tucker. "If each student in Sight and Sound bought the book online, he or she would pay shipping costs, doubling the price point."

While searching for books online has indeed proven less expensive for many students, others still prefer the Bookstore for its convenience. Amanda Perry '11 bought only a few books online.

"I wanted to make sure I had my books on time. Also, I like to look through the used books to make sure they don't have too many markings and are in decent condition."

However, Perry said that she will buy books online if they are significantly cheaper than at the Bookstore.



Jessica Appelson

Bookshelves remain more stocked than usual.

51 Main open until Dec.

by Jaime Fuller, News Editor

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz announced in an e-mail to the College community that the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC) has recommended to continue operations at 51 Main at the Bridge until December 2009. Liebowitz has agreed to the committee's recommendations, but also laid stringent qualifications that if not achieved, would result in 51 Main's closure at the end of the year.

Although many other auxiliary operations around campus were closed due to the College's financial difficulties, 51 Main is being given additional time to prove itself, mainly because of a donor who provided funds explicitly for expanding social opportunities for the College community.

"51 Main has proven itself to be a valuable social alternative for a mix of students, faculty, staff and townspeople," wrote Liebowitz in his e-mail. "It is funded by a donor who specifically wishes to support social life at Middlebury, and with this support, giving the project more time to prove itself seems worthwhile."

According to Liebowitz's e-mail, for 51 Main to continue operating beyond December, it must record two consecutive months of profitability between now and the end of the year. However, this goal may be hard to achieve with national consumer spending projected to decline by 1.3 percent this year in a recession that has deteriorated employment numbers as well as public confidence in the economy.

Hirshberg chosen to speak at commencement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his relatively obscure status.

"Considering the economy today, we really need innovators like Gary," said Shahani, who expects Hirshberg to deliver nothing short of a dynamic and inspiring address. "He was the guy who suggested organic farming 25 years ago, when almost nobody knew what it was."

Hirshberg's selection comes at a time when many business leaders nationwide are being called out for unethical behavior. Hirshberg's commitment to social responsibility played a major role in the Honorary Degree Committee's final decision, according to committee chair David Salem.

"People have begun questioning not only the legitimacy but the viability of democratic capitalism," said Salem in a phone interview. "They're wondering if it's possible to be a successful capitalist without cutting ethical corners. Here you have a man who hasn't compromised."

Graduating seniors can expect Hirshberg to discuss his transition from a liberal arts education in environmental studies to leadership of a multi-billion dollar business.

Upon conclusion of his address, Hirshberg will receive from the College an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, his eighth such doctorate. Joining him will be David A. Jones and his wife, Betty Ashbury Jones; President Emeritus of the College John M. McCardell and his wife, Bonnie McCardell; Frank Sesno; and Clara Yu, former president of Middlebury's Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS).

David A. Jones will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. A native of Louisville, Ky., Jones is a current MIIS trustee. After graduating from the University of Louisville in 1954, Jones served for three years in the U.S. Navy before pursuing law at Yale University. In 1961, he helped found Humana Inc., which went on to become one of the largest healthcare companies in the U.S.

Betty Ashbury Jones will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. A current trustee and former vice chair of the board at Middlebury College, Jones is also a

1984 graduate of Middlebury's French school — the only current trustee to be associated with the College's language programs. Together with her husband, Jones helped establish a \$3 million grant to support MIIS.

John M. McCardell will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. McCardell was president of the College from 1992 to 2004; before that, he had served as a professor of American history. A wildly successful \$200 million capital campaign during McCardell's presidency prompted the creation of an endowed professorship in McCardell's honor. The College's science facility also bears the former president's name. McCardell is currently a founding member of the Amethyst Initiative,

which seeks to renew debate over the 21-year-old drinking age in the United States.

Bonnie McCardell will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. McCardell helped establish the annual Middlebury College Public Leadership awards and was deeply involved in educational and developmental initiatives in the local community during her husband's tenure. During her time volunteering for the College's Page One Literacy Project, McCardell helped distribute over 22,000 books to organizations nationwide.

Frank Sesno '77 will receive an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. A College trustee from 1994 through 2004, Sesno joined CNN in the mid-1980s as a White House correspon-

dent. Sesno later hosted the network's Sunday news talk show, "Late Edition with Frank Sesno," and is today a professor of public policy and communication at George Washington University. By the end of the academic year, Sesno will have had two sons graduate from the College.

Clara Yu will receive an honorary Doctor of Education degree. After serving a stint as assistant professor of Chinese, Yu was named vice president for languages and director of the Summer Language Schools in 1993. She is responsible for designing what became the College's renowned major in international studies. Yu was also the 12th president of MIIS. She retired from the position last year.

National colleges in same budget boat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

positions through attrition, need-blind admissions for international applicants and the MidView orientation program, the College has been digging deep to make up an anticipated \$20 million deficit over the next two years. Liebowitz noted, however, that these measures have helped stave off cuts to other areas which he described as "untouchable" — the College's nine-to-one ratio of students to faculty and a need-blind admissions policy for applicants within the United States (albeit one that will require a modestly larger family contribution once students are accepted).

While Middlebury's commitment to maintaining its need-blind admissions program is in line with the rest of the NESCAC colleges and other "peer" schools, the College's maintenance of its student-faculty ratio makes it one of only a few: Wesleyan University plans to generate \$3.9 million in new revenue by adding 120 students over four years, while Amherst will add 100 students over the same period and Bowdoin will add 50 students over five years.

The College has also avoided direct layoffs of faculty and staff, opting instead to eliminate positions through attrition and incentives for early retirement. Dartmouth College, meanwhile, laid off 60 employees at the outset

of February in addition to the 100 positions it will shed through attrition. The picture is even more grim at Harvard University, where — despite boasting the largest endowment in higher education — fully 10 percent of the school's workforce of 16,400 will be laid off after an endowment loss of \$8 billion since the summer.

Participants at last weekend's meeting credited the College's comparatively strong endowment performance to Middlebury's relationship with Investure, a boutique firm that works only with 10 non-profit clients. Based in Charlottesville, Va., Investure is known in the non-profit community for working closely with clients whose endowments are not large enough to justify an on-campus investment office.

"We are being just as well served as if they were on campus," said Rick Fritz '68, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Fritz also stressed that, aside from working to close the College's budget deficit, the goal this weekend was to continue to maintain transparency within the Middlebury community as the financial crisis continues.

"We were early and methodical in our communications, and President Liebowitz has insisted on ownership and transparency throughout the process," said Fritz. "I believe that some of the other schools have caught up, but not with the level of community involve-

ment and meetings that we've had."

Transparency has consisted both of community-wide emails, such as one from the Office of the President on Jan. 29 outlining the Budget Oversight Committee's recommended cuts, and open meetings with students and staff in which Liebowitz has fielded questions from attendees.

The College's open approach to its budget woes has earned it both praise and criticism, as evidenced in a Feb. 4 *Higher Education* article focused on student financial aid. While Middlebury was the first elite private college to announce modest changes to its financial aid packages (a \$100 increase in the required family contribution and a \$50 increase in the work-study component for students receiving aid), the article quotes anonymous sources from other colleges speculating that it will not be the last.

"Some experts are surprised and a bit concerned by Middlebury's approach," the article reads. Others, however, said that such adjustments are probably inevitable for those schools, like Middlebury, that are wealthy compared to most of higher education, but don't have Harvard's billions. And some others speculated that Middlebury may just be being more honest than other institutions that face similar pressures."

Code reform comes too late for Smith

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accept responsibility and try to make the best of the situation?"

He said that those who know him know he would not plagiarize intentionally.

"It's not in my character," he said. "But intent is not included within the framework of establishing guilt for plagiarism."

Smith believes this should be rectified when students vote on changes to the Honor Code in the near future.

"If you were in a grocery store and forgot to pay for something and came back and acknowledged it, you're not the same as someone who intentionally stole something," he said. "If something was unintentional, forcing someone to take a semester off, I don't really know what that does."

While he believes it is unjust to punish students who make accidental citation errors to the same degree as those who purchase papers online, Smith has decided not to appeal the decision.

"It would be better for me to go home, take some time off and deal with some of the things going on outside of school that were also influencing me," he said. "I need to take a break for a while so I can come back and finish strong."

Smith will return to Minnesota this week, where he plans to take GRE classes and informally advise the new SGA administration before returning to the College for his final semester in the fall.

Only a handful of administrators and close friends were aware that Smith was stepping down before he made the announcement at the conclusion of this week's SGA meeting.

"To be completely honest, his resignation comes as a complete surprise," said SGA Diversity Chair Becky Harper '11.

Sophomore Senator David Peduto met privately with Smith before Sunday night's meeting to discuss his frustrations with the organization.

"He was open to it and engaging in a way that made it all the more shocking for me when he said he would have to be stepping down," Peduto said.

"It wasn't specified to us why he resigned, but we are most concerned that everything is okay," Wonnacott Senator Loren Mejia '09 said. "We're trying to pull ourselves back together as quickly as possible."

As it regroups, the SGA will strive, above all, to achieve continuity.

"The last thing we need right now is an abrupt stop to the initiatives senators and cabinet members have been working on all year," said Smith's chief of staff, Hiba Fakhoury '09.

Smith is wary of the ability of his successor to execute sweeping changes.

"There will be plenty of support for them to be able to digest everything that's going on," Smith said, "but I don't foresee them being able to bring in new initiatives and implement them, given the time frame."

What members of the SGA should focus on instead, Smith said, is "reasserting themselves as the voice of the student body."

"They need to say, 'hey, we're the elected officials here. We're supposed to be representing students. And we want a hand in these things,'" he said.

One instance in which Smith feels the SGA is insufficiently consulted is in deliberations on the College's budget deficit.

"I think the majority of the student body feels like they aren't being adequately represented, or being allowed to take part in this process," Smith said. "And they're right."

Smith said that as a member of the Budget Oversight Committee, being asked to represent

To be completely honest, his resignation comes as a complete surprise.

— Becky Harper '11

students while not being permitted to consult them placed him in a "very awkward position."

"Middlebury is too diverse to have two seniors sit on this committee and pretend that they can represent everyone and make the best arguments possible," he said.

Smith said that while administrators have made information available on the College's Web site, its utility is questionable.

"How accessible is that information to students who haven't worked in finance for 20 years, or aren't faculty members who have seen these transitions happen and know how it affects their salary?" he asked. "Students have a very different relationship with these things. All of this is very new to us. It's hard to just look at a spreadsheet and understand what it means."

As a result, Smith said he doesn't blame students who feel "animosity" due to being "locked out" of the process.

"That is how they should feel," Smith said. "But now let's look toward a solution."

Smith said much of that solution will involve student effort.

"When [Acting Provost] Tim Spears and President [of the College Ronald D.] Liebowitz have a meeting to discuss the budget, it would help if more than 35 students showed up," he

said.

The same goes for students' engagement with the SGA at large.

"They may or may not be aware that the SGA exists, or that it means Student Government Association," Smith said. "Students should seek out their senators and speak with them. Likewise, senators should make themselves available. The source of SGA's power comes from the students."

In addition, Smith said, the SGA must make internal adjustments in order to shoulder increased responsibility, including facilitating greater interaction among its members.

"They need to work closer as a unit, and make it feel more like a team than it currently does," he said. "There are a lot of factions. They may be friends outside, but they only come together once a week. I don't think that's a very good way of getting things done."

Smith also called for greater time investments from some members of the SGA whose energy is divided among many commitments.

"They are not only representing current students, but future generations," he said. "They're shaping Middlebury College. Putting in just a little bit of time isn't enough."

As Smith reflects on the time he himself has devoted to the organization, he said he considers it a "great learning experience."

"I'm a much better person from having done this, and I'm much more prepared for similar positions I may be in down the road," Smith said. "It's had a profound impact that I'm not able to fully grasp at this moment."

He admitted that adjusting to the position was arduous at first.

"My experience as a senator did not particularly prepare me for what would have to happen as president," he said. "Until you're in the position of SGA president, you don't even know what questions to ask."

Smith said he would advise his successor to keep the position in perspective.

"While you're president and the limelight is on you, it's not about you as much as you might think, or as much as you might put on yourself," he said. "Think of it in the long progression. If you're going to make a big institutional change, it's necessarily going to have to go beyond you, beyond your administration and beyond what you can do by yourself."

To that end, Smith said the next SGA president must be prepared to reach out to a broad cross-section of the College community and harness its talents.

"I think all of the elements are there for the SGA to take on that role of being a true advocate of the students," he said.

SGAupdate

by Aseem Mulji, Staff Writer

For what was likely to be his last Student Government Association (SGA) meeting as SGA President, Bobby Joe Smith III '09 set a jam-packed, comprehensive agenda. He hosted three guest speakers from the administration who presented reports and fielded questions on current hot-button issues, including the comprehensive fee, the budget, dining services, gym hours and revisions to the Honor Code.

Acting Provost Tim Spears stressed that the administration and the Board of Trustees are aware of the effects of a bearish economy on the student body and are responding as well as they can. The administration has committed itself to transparency and has recognized the need to "communicate, communicate, communicate."

Despite the administration's efforts to keep students involved, many SGA members still felt left out of the loop.

"There is a general feeling that students haven't been able to participate in the decision-making process," said Smith '09.

Spears' response: time. He argued that costs must be cut as soon as possible — budget decisions cannot always go through the lengthy consensus building process. He suggested that the SGA encourage students to

feed budget suggestions to the student members of the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC), the SGA president and Finance Committee Chair Caroline Woodworth '09.

First-year Senator Pathik Root and Sophomore Senator Ashley Quisol both suggested that the SGA be given access to more BOC information.

The open-question format allowed the SGA members to steer the discussion in whichever direction they pleased. First-year Senator Ethan Schmertzler asked when Atwater would reopen after its closure in January 2010.

"Not in the foreseeable future," said Spears. However, after renovations in Ross and Proctor are completed, there will be more seats available than there are currently in Ross, Atwater and FIC. Spears also explained that the entire process will most likely result in a loss of about 20-25 Dining Services jobs.

The discussion then shifted to the athletics budget. Junior Senator Anne Weinberg expressed concern about the reduction of the Athletic Facilities' open hours. She pointed out that before the cut, many students with afternoon classes utilized athletic facilities between 9 p.m. and midnight. Many of her constituents would be willing to work for free

to keep the Athletic Center open until midnight, she explained.

Associate Dean of the College Karen Guttentag and Acting Dean of the College Gus Jordan also attended the meeting to present the recommendations of the Honor Code Review Committee (HCRC), which is responsible for reviewing the Honor Code system every four years.

Guttentag announced that the committee has recommended three changes to the Honor Code Constitution itself. These changes will require a student referendum organized by the SGA in which at least two-thirds of the student body must take part.

Both Jordan and Guttentag said that the committee made its recommendations after collecting community responses to online questionnaires about cheating. Their research led them to an important conclusion: cheating does happen at Middlebury College. Constitutional recommendations were made with this fact in mind.

The SGA, Community Council and Faculty Council will all meet with the HCRC on Monday, March 2 to discuss and formally respond to the recommended constitutional changes.

The Academic Honesty Statement, Constitution and community responses to the HCRC questionnaire can all be found under "Academic Information and Policies" on the Middlebury College Web site.

Carnival heats up social life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ception is C.A. Johnson Fellow in Political Philosophy Kateri Carmola.

"We're in an economic situation with the College where we are trying to cut every little bit of our budget and it's affecting faculty who can't hire students over the summer," she said. "I just don't see the bigger benefit of things like fireworks."

Beyer, on the other hand, defended Winter Carnival, saying, "I think it's an important aspect of student life here. It's certainly a long-standing tradition and so I think it's something that through participation and memory really connects classes of Middlebury generations."

According to Adams, Winter Carnival was better attended in past years, but many students still feel a connection toward the event, even if it's just because of the long weekend.

"I like that the College has its own independent tradition to celebrate even if everyone celebrates it in their own way — even if they do nothing," Lark Nierenberg '11 said. Matthew Vukitch '11 agreed.

"The day off is really nice, but just the fact that Winter Carnival is steeped in tradition makes it very important," he said.

The annual Friday off from classes is something that has been under scrutiny in recent years as well. Last year when buzz concerning the possible elimination of the three-day weekend spread around campus, administrators were faced with a sizable outcry of displeasure from the student body. However, due to steady decreases in student attendance at the races, this novelty may very well become a thing of the past.

Beyer attributed the possible decline of student attendance to changes in student disposition.

"We do know that the students at the College of this generation seem to be working harder, and so for many people, I'm sure it's a one-day sort of break that is used for studies," he said.

"Maybe just reminding the student body that Winter Carnival exists because of the skiing carnival would help," Vukitch added. "It's not advertised as a ski race and more like just a day off."

To some, however, the extended weekend is an issue of academic irresponsibility.

"I didn't understand the need for a break from academics two weeks into the semester," Carmola said.

Only two weeks after February break, the day off from classes may appear disruptive to the academic calendar and would be better suited to a time when it might be more appreciated by students. "It's more about seeing it in the context of the whole semester and the academic mission of the College which has got to be its primary mission," she said.

It stands that qualms concerning the time off have more to do with the day's placement than its purpose.

"Perhaps the second week of classes may not be the ideal time to do it ... but I have no problems with the day," said Beyer. "It's been so long in the calendar that I think any faculty member can make the accommodations necessary to account for that missing day."

With the expansion of some older traditions, such as the ice sculpture contest, the preservation of others and the addition of new events like the Wood Brothers concert on Friday night, the future of Winter Carnival seems bright despite dim times and present grievances. It has even been expanded upon by the Middlebury Business Association, who sponsored a downtown winter carnival this year to help make the weekend an event the entire community can enjoy, both on and off campus.

Plant slashes oil use by roughly half

By Lea Calderon-Guthe

STAFF WRITER

"What powers a learning community? Apparently, wood chips," said Bill McKibben, scholar-in-residence in environmental studies, at the official launch of the Biomass Plant at the College on Feb. 19. Trustees, faculty, staff and students toured the new facility as part of the launch event, and President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz sought to describe the plant's significance best in his celebratory opening speech.

"This is no ordinary energy plant," Liebowitz said. "Biomass gasification demonstrates a new technology that cuts the College's consumption of heating oil in half, saving about a million gallons a year while reducing our carbon dioxide emissions by about 40 percent, or 12,500 metric tons per year."

The biomass facility turns wood chips into carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the gasification chamber and then ignites those gases in a boiler. Steam from the boiler is used for heating and cooling in most of the buildings on campus, and on its way out of the plant the steam cogenerates about 20 percent of Middlebury's electricity. The biomass plant is designed to handle the College's base heating load 365 days a year and the wood chips will replace half of the number 6 oil the College uses. The plant also represents the largest step Middlebury has made toward its goal of carbon neutrality by 2016, a goal proposed largely because of student initiative.

"This whole process has been student-driven with tremendous student involvement the whole way," said Executive Vice President and Treasurer of the College Bob Huth. "I think that's one of the reasons that Middlebury has advanced as far as it has — we probably would not have a biomass facility had it not been for our students."

The College first assessed its carbon footprint in 2003 when a Winter Term course taught by Professor of Chemistry Lori Del Negro and Luce Professor of International Environmental Economics Jon Isham produced a report proposing potential objectives and strategies for reducing campus climate impact. A Carbon Reduction Work Group reviewed the proposals and determined that gasifying biomass was an economically feasible way to reduce the College's footprint. Then, the Biomass Energy Research Corporation surveyed the area for biomass and verified that it was also environmentally feasible and locally sustainable. Building a biomass plant became part of not only reducing the College's carbon output but becoming completely carbon neutral by 2016 following the Board of Trustees' approval of student organization MiddShift's proposal in May 2007. The Board's approval came after a campaign by Sunday Night Group (SNG), Middlebury's largest student environmental organization, achieved significant student response in the form of a petition and a task force chaired by Huth and made up of students and administrative staff outlined a path to carbon neutrality including the Biomass Plant as a key component. Like Huth, Chester Harvey '09, an active member of SNG and Huth's Carbon Neutrality Task Force, credits student support for a large part of the Carbon Neu-

trality Initiative's success.

"I think most students are at least interested in why the biomass plant was built," said Harvey. "While the administration may be handling the details and the action of the program, it's still the students who are kind of sitting behind the scenes and prodding them to keep going."

Billie Borden '09, another member of the Carbon Neutrality Task Force, emphasized not only student leadership in the success of the Biomass Project, but also the unique collaboration between students, faculty and staff.

"For me, the most memorable part of the whole thing was actually being able to have an important role on these committees and as a student being taken seriously and being able to contribute to important discussions on the College's carbon footprint," Borden said. "I was increasingly impressed with how well the College and staff work with students and really value that relationship."

Measuring the success of the Biomass Plant from a purely economic standpoint, the College has invested in a \$12 million facility that will ultimately pay for itself in approximately 10 years depending on the cost of oil, and then continue to save money. Diversifying the fuel supply with wood chips also decreases the College's dependence on oil while stimulating the local economy.

"The focus hasn't been on if it would be nice to do this — it's been on solving real-world problems that have an economic rationale to them," Huth said. "To me, this is a case-in-point where we've diversified our fuel supply, we've done something that has a payback for us and the local economy, and we have the great benefits of reducing the carbon produced. It's a win-win-win situation, and to me that's what you call a real-world solution to a problem we're all trying to correct."

The Biomass Plant's success is widely acclaimed, but to a leader in the field of institutional sustainability like Middlebury College, there is more to be done. Even though the wood chips for the Biomass Plant are currently collected within 75 miles of the campus, the College seeks to shrink its definition of 'local' even more. Environmental studies students are currently investigating the environmental impact of 1200 acres of willow trees based on a 10-acre test plot west of campus. If the willow trees prove to be environmentally friendly, the College has plans to grow its own fuel and supply 25 percent of its heating needs. The willow project would further benefit the greater Middlebury community as well.

"We have a lot of fields in the area that nobody does anything with, so if we were to have landowners be able to grow a cash-crop — willows — that works, it would really help the economy within Addison County," Huth said.

The College has reduced its need for oil by one million gallons, about half, but there remains the second million-gallon question: how will Middlebury reduce the rest of its carbon emissions? After the rest of the oil, Isham and the Carbon Neutrality Initiative point to transportation as the next major source of carbon emissions for the College, and even as the Biomass Plant continues to receive nationwide attention,

students, faculty and staff are already tackling the other 60 percent of the College's carbon emissions.

"I am utterly stunned, in awe and so proud," Isham said. "Everything about [the Biomass Plant] speaks to the best of what we can do, including the sense that we have to do more. One of the things I really admire about environmental studies as an academic department is that while we are quite proud of what we do, we are always trying to do better, and I think that is something that gets at the core of what makes our college and the entire Middlebury community such a strong place. We're proud of what we do, but we don't rest on our laurels too much. Genuine celebration is well-merited, but we also have a sense of, 'Okay, what next?' It's that sense of moving forward that is such a special part of this community."

The students involved with the Biomass Project are looking forward already, as well. Borden, who is graduating, hopes other students will continue to step up.

"I definitely would like to see students maintain an interest in helping to plan [carbon neutrality]," Borden said. "I think there are a lot of really exciting things going on at a national level and even at a state level in terms of increasing the sustainability of our operations. I think if you want to be invested in where you are, then this carbon neutrality commitment is a really great way to take an active role in shaping the environment at Middlebury. I want to see that excitement about the project sustain itself."

Harvey is also graduating, but before he leaves he has set some new goals for SNG and continued expectations for the student body as a whole.

"I think that the College has done a really good job identifying places where the institution can make really big changes to take a large bite out of our carbon footprint," Harvey said. "What we haven't done such a good job with, and what I think SNG could help with a lot potentially, is figuring out ways to mobilize students to do something about [carbon neutrality] themselves. There are all of these things that form a much smaller piece of the pie but can really be used as an educational tool in everyday energy conservation."

The College is itself an educational tool in that it sets an example for other institutions. It has become one of the leading models in collegiate carbon neutrality, but according to Huth, its success will not be easy to emulate.

"Other institutions have asked questions like, 'How do you do this? How do you get an institutional goal of carbon neutrality by 2016, how do you affect carbon reductions, how do you get the community engaged?'" Huth said. "They'd like to replicate that, and it's very hard to replicate because it's in the Middlebury College DNA and to a great extent it's driven by our students. We have this environmental program and over the course of the years it has become embedded in the culture. It's something that students get excited about because they will have to deal with the environment longer than we will."

college shorts

By Tamara Hilmes, News Editor

Cornell alters financial aid to increase recruiting

Cornell University made the decision this past November to change the face of its need-based financial aid program in order to enhance their ability to "aggressively recruit" select students — particularly athletes, minorities, and those exhibiting academic excellence. These targeted students are being referred to as "enrollment priorities" by University administrators.

"Some of the students who are selected will be 'college scholars'; the selection of college scholars is done by each college," Doris Davis, associate provost for admissions and enrollment, wrote in an e-mail. "Other students may be selected because they are an enrollment priority, such as students of color, athletes, and students from farm families — these are just a few examples."

The University continues to stress that it does not and will not offer merit-based scholarships, but rather merit-based aid to students "in need of financial assistance."

The president of the Cornell Student Assembly (S.A.), Ryan Lavin '09, claims that the school's new program calls for the use of a different need-calculating formula for select students.

"Before [one] would say that the University gives 100 percent need-based aid to all students," Lavin said. "[But] this formula is different for selected students, who seem to now be getting 110 percent of their need."

Administrators are hopeful that the changes to the policy will enhance both athletic recruitment and diversity on campus, as well as allow it to compete with other Ivy League schools who are offering more impressive aid packages to possible recruits.

— Cornell Daily Sun

Students compete for dwindling internships

As the job market continues to shrink, students at Princeton are finding themselves being forced to step outside their niche to secure jobs and internship positions. On Feb. 20, over 150 students gathered to chat with recruiters at the annual Career Services internship fair — jobs that in many cases, were outside the industry they originally considered.

Even finance students, in light of the recent fall of a number of large banking institutions, are finding the hunt to be difficult and extremely competitive.

"There are just fewer opportunities, because so many of the big banks that were once here are now gone," Randy Wang '10 said. "I'm looking more into investment banking, and there's only one investment bank here, and it's a boutique firm."

Securing internships, according to employers who were represented at the fair, will only become increasingly competitive as more companies continue to scale back on both paid and unpaid positions. The shortage of opportunities has coincided with a boost in the number of applicants, many of whom are unconcerned about compensation.

"I noticed last year when we did interviews and said, 'Just to be clear, this is an unpaid internship,' some people were wavering," explained Kai Chan '04, an associate at FG Companies, a small boutique investment bank in New York. "This year, when I explicitly start off the interview saying it's an unpaid internship, they're fine with that, and just say, 'Let's proceed.'"

— The Daily Princetonian

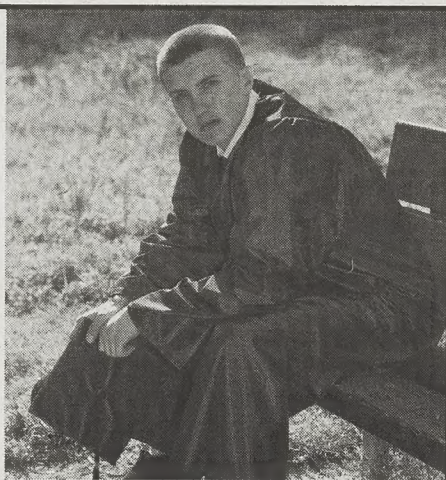
public safety log

February 16, 2009 - February 23, 2009

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
2/16/2009	2:00 a.m.	Vandalism	Spray Paint	Prescott House	Referred to Commons Dean
2/16/2009	7:55 a.m.	Collision, Hit and Run	Vehicle to Post	College Street	Referred to Commons Dean
2/16/2009	9:30 p.m.	Theft from public space	iPod	Athletic Complex	Referred to Commons Dean
2/17/2009	10:00 p.m.	Vandalism	egging of Vehicle	R Lot	Open

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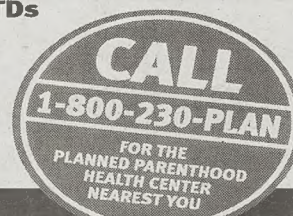
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If on a winter's day...



Alex Russo

By Liz Scarinci
Staff Writer

The town of Middlebury holds a distinct identity as a place of tight-knit community and quirks. And at the First Annual Middlebury Winter Carnival and Chili Contest on Feb. 21, students and townspeople held out their bowls to welcome heaping servings of chili and renowned small-town charm.

Students and community members alike gathered to participate in the event, organized by the Better Middlebury Partnership (BMP). The chili contest proved to be the main event of the day, with 28 chili vendors serving 50 different kinds of chili, ranging from venison to vegetarian. Public skating, snowshoe races, a bonfire and dogsled demos rounded out the day's activities, with the events culminating in a Winter Ball held at Two Brothers Tavern.

The Partnership consciously planned the town carnival for the same weekend as the College's own annual Winter Carnival as a way to connect the two communities. Coordinator Megan Brady, owner of Two Brothers Tavern and an organizer of the event, emphasized the unity of the two communities.

"In the spirit of 51 Main, [the BMP was] thinking that if we held an event that spotlighted the [College's] Winter Carnival, it would make people realize that we were all here together as one community," Brady said.

Brady hoped the town carnival would bring even more attention to the College carnival. According to Brady, the College carnival has diminished in significance over the years, and the town carnival marked an effort to revive it.

"It wasn't meant to compete in any way with the College carnival," she said. "We were hoping to compliment it."

Leaders of the BMP were pleased to have so many people on Main Street in one day. According to Gail Freidin, executive director of the BMP, more than 1,000 crowded the streets of Middlebury on Saturday afternoon.

"Having that many people on the sidewalks in the winter was great," Freidin said.

President of the Better Middlebury Partnership BMP bounced around the event in a chili pepper costume, talking and waving to passersby. "The event went beyond our expectations," said Stahl with a smile. "We also lucked out with the weather."

The business on Main Street surged on Saturday, with stores reporting a noticeable increase in foot traffic on that afternoon.



Evan Masseau



Alex Russo



Alex Russo

SEE CARNIVAL, PAGE 9

**Act 60**

Vermont schools still struggle with funding 12 years after crucial law passed, page 8.

Keeping the books

Barbara Harding brings eclectic tastes to Otter Creek Books, page 9.

Spice up your life

See who took top honors in the town of Middlebury's first annual chili contest, page 9.



town/gown



by Grady Ross

Several weeks ago, while exchanging small talk in the dining hall, I mentioned that I was from Middlebury. Overhearing me, a student interjected: "That's so great that you already consider Middlebury your home." I didn't correct her, but in truth, I wasn't being philosophical or praising the campus for its power to welcome students into its family. Born in Porter Hospital and raised eight miles from campus, I am a "townie" through and through.

The usual response to this is something like an insinuation that I'm slightly crazy. And I can understand this reaction: after all, isn't college about experiencing different things? As I moved my things in on the first day of orientation ("You forgot your duvet cover? Okay, your brother will bring it in on his way to school tomorrow"), I was confronted with the question of how to separate my college experience from the first 18 years of my life. But as I sought exposure to aspects of Middlebury that would be unique to my higher education, I found constant reminders that home was not so far away.

The start of classes would surely usher in a radically different period of my life — or so I believed. But as I looked up to the projection screen to take notes at my first lecture, my best friend from high school grinned down at me. His mother was my professor, and had included pictures of him in her presentation.

Perhaps, I thought, the social scene would free me from hometown blues. But a lecherous journey ended in a blow to my undergraduate invincibility: I was accosted one night by a Public Safety officer who reminded me, in a friendly but blood-chilling manner, that he knew my father.

My Russian professor handed me my diploma at graduation, my on-campus employer dated my mom in high school, my home course for my high school ski team was Bread Loaf and a nurse at the Health Center is the parent of a childhood friend. Must I go on? My college experience thus far has been infiltrated with connections to home: like the Hydra from Greek mythology, ties to my pre-college existence only seemed to grow more numerous with each one I cut off. In an attitude of defeat, I decided to embrace the inevitable.

As I ceased to resist, I had a revelation. As much as a local identity seems to inhibit my pursuit of new experiences, it also gives me an appreciation for being a student of this school. Higher education, for me, has always translated to Middlebury. Harvard? Yale? Never heard of them. Middlebury, on the other hand ... well, my first Christmas stocking was a blue sock emblazoned with a prominent white "M."

And the Middlebury student: Oh, those strange and beautiful creatures passing the windows of our car on the daily drive through campus. Let me inform you of your elevated roles in the community — your diverse upbringings embody a culture and worldliness that would otherwise be unrealistic in a small town. You are to Middlebury residents what the endangered estuarine crocodile was to Steve Irwin.

Having placed Middlebury on such a pedestal all of my life, I now view my role as a student with a special appreciation. I am amazed that I am now part of something that, until this September, held celebrity status. I realize now that my college experience is not hindered by home's proximity, but more enriched.

Besides, as Ross Dining Hall is more affected by the economic recession every day, it's kind of great to have a home-cooked meal just 15 minutes away. And then there's the laundry perks.

Players' "Lettice" earns some "lovage"

By Alyssa O'Gallagher
STAFF WRITER

If the name Peter Shaffer sounds at all familiar to you, you are probably one of three distinct types of people: an English major, a theater major or a rabid Harry Potter fan. Unfortunately for all of you Harry Potheads out there, a scantily-clad equiphilian Daniel Radcliffe did not grace the Town Hall Theater with his presence this weekend. While perhaps Shaffer is best known, of late, for casting everyone's favorite wizard in the most recent run of "Equus," the Middlebury Community Players (MCP) chose this past weekend to perform one of Shaffer's more comedic plays, "Lettice and Lovage," originally written for another Potter alum, Dame Maggie Smith.

If you've never heard of this thoroughly British comedy, you may be wondering, as I was, how such a blatant typo made its way into the title. It turns out that Lettice does not refer at all to the vegetable, but to the title character, Lettice Douffet (played by the College's own Director of Health and Wellness Education Jyoti Danieri). While Danieri is probably best known around campus for organizing various health workshops, including everyone's favorite "Let's Talk About Sex Week," she also has some thespian blood running in her veins.

Her character, Lettice, is a tour guide in the Fustian House, an old English hall which, while boring, apparently has historic significance. She begins regaling visitors with her own "improved" version of history and gets away with it for quite some time, as apparently many college tour guides do. Did you know that McCa-Cardell Bicentennial Hall actually is *not* the biggest building in Vermont? That is until Lotte Schoen, a Fustian house employee (played by a very convincingly British Elizabeth Christensen), apprehends and promptly fires her.

A strange turn of events finds the women reunited 10 weeks later in Lettice's apartment, bonding over — what else — alcohol and dead historical figures. While the scene certainly had its merits (Danieri and Christensen really did play quite convincing drunkards), the novelty of two grown women stumbling drunk faded quickly for me. I mean, who hasn't seen their



Courtesy of Jyoti Danieri

Jyoti Danieri gesticulates as the quirky Lettice Douffet in Middlebury Community Players' "Lettice and Lovage," their most recent production to play at the Town Hall Theater.

parents on New Year's? While I wasn't dazzled by the story Shaffer builds in the second act, my mild disinterest in the plot did give me time to really focus on the acting. I was genuinely impressed by the sheer quantity of lines Danieri was able to memorize and flawlessly deliver. In my last foray into acting, circa fifth grade, I had enough trouble memorizing three lines, while Danieri tackled close to three hours of dialogue with seeming effortlessness. But what I really found myself most hung up on was Christensen's nearly flawless British accent, something which I, after years of trying to imitate Harry Potter, still have not mastered.

While the act itself was a little underwhelming, Schaffer deserves commendations for introducing me to the nearly forgotten 16th century term "quaff" which I interpreted to mean "knock it back." And I do concede that my relative age and more frequent exposure to quaffing may have left me a little desensitized to the true hilarity of the drunken revelry, which really seemed to strike a chord with the rest of the audience. Theatergoer Heidi Huestis, whose sister Robin Huestis was the production's costume designer, found the drunken revelry to

be one of the most hilarious spectacles in the show.

If Act II left me in a little bit of a daze, Act III, undoubtedly the comedic high of the play, remedied the situation and left me ultimately with a good taste in my mouth. We learn that Lettice and Lotte have developed an interesting relationship where each week, they reenact an important historical figure's execution complete with real guillotines, axes and execution blocks. Act III is delivered in the form of one particularly catastrophic reenactment that leaves Lotte with an axe lodged in her neck and Lettice charged with attempted murder. The interaction between a distraught Lettice and her court-appointed lawyer, Mr. Bardolph (played by Thomas Jackson), and the altogether unbelievable nature of her terribly true story, reaffirm Shaffer's comic genius.

If it's true that all's well that ends well, then I'd have to say that MCP's production of "Lettice and Lovage" was a success. As for Shaffer, I think he may have relied a little too heavily on Dame Maggie Smith's comedic genius to obscure his own shortcomings, particularly in the second act.

Vt. public schools face crisis in state funding

By Lea Calderon-Guthe
STAFF WRITER

In his fourth inaugural speech, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas condemned the Equal Education Opportunity Act, calling the proposed school budget increases it allows "unsustainable in any season, and especially when our economy is facing such severe retrenchment." State legislature passed the act, otherwise known as Educational Act 60, in 1997, and it celebrated its 12th birthday last week. If Douglas has his way, this will have been the last birthday for Act 60 and its modifying acts, Act 68 of 2003 and Act 82 of 2008.

Act 60 equalizes education funding among school districts, regardless of the wealth of the district, by exacting an income-based state property tax that is evenly distributed among the state, as opposed to each district raising funds through taxes on its own. Former State Representative and founder of Act 60 John Freidin said that the first of the original goals of the act was to give all districts equal ability to raise money for education.

"We didn't want [Act 60] to be, as all previous school funding plans had been, vulnerable to being underfunded," said Freidin. "It has not been underfunded because we put it together in a way that meant that if the state provided lower funds for public education, the tax rates in all towns would go up."

By giving low-income districts extra money, Freidin wanted to even out the resources available to students, ideally improving their performance on standardized tests.

"Though it was not really one of our written goals, the reason behind all of this was to encourage the very, very low-spending towns to spend more money, because to some degree

money improves education," said Freidin. "Kids at what used to be the lower spending districts now have better resources, and that has been reflected in improved test scores."

Tom Beyer, professor of Russian at the College and Chairman of the Addison Central Supervisory Union (ACSU) School Board, believes the educational benefit to students pushed forth by Freidin has been forgotten in an effort to reduce spending through Acts 68 and 82, which were passed after Freidin left state legislature.

This is an opportunity to rethink what education ought to look like in the 21st century.

—Tom Beyer

Act 68 places a tax penalty on school districts that spend more than 125 percent of the state average. For every tax dollar raised over this mark, the district must raise another tax dollar for the state's education fund. Act 82 also tries to limit spending by requiring two votes on school budgets that increase more than one percent over inflation. Community members vote once on the base budget up to one percent over inflation, and then any additional spending is put to a vote as "extraordinary expenses" in an attempt to deter its approval.

"They are both called education acts, but in fact their purpose is to slow and/or decrease the funding for education," Beyer said.

Because of Acts 68 and 82, ACSU has had to cut minor funding for supplies and special education, as well as one teaching position, to stay below the 125 percent spending mark. Districts like Middlebury end up having to limit

their budgets to appease taxpayers.

"It's a very lofty goal to try and equalize spending," Principal of Middlebury Union High School Bill Lawson said. "I think that's a very laudatory goal, but it does cause some complexities and, probably what they have is as good as it's going to get."

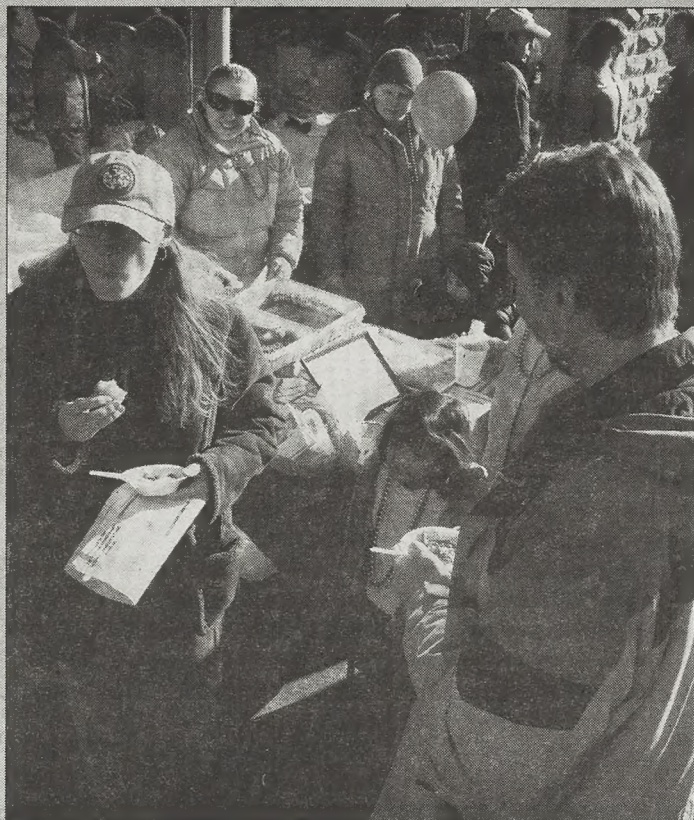
Freidin does not see Acts 68 and 82 continuing the vision he had for equal education funding if they are limiting those funds.

"I don't think you can reduce spending without damaging resources available to students," Freidin said. "I think school boards are very conscientious and serious about keeping spending under control. They work very hard to do that, and frankly, between their work and the vote of the people in the town whose taxes are affected, I think you've got a great system."

Even if there is an efficient system in place, Act 60 allows poorer districts to spend more and has not changed spending in wealthier districts, leading the cost of education in Vermont to increase rapidly over the last 12 years. Douglas' solution is to reduce spending. Beyer proposes changes that preserve quality of education but are also more cost-efficient.

"This is an opportunity to rethink what education at the high school and middle school level ought to look like in the 21st century," Beyer said. "But are we going to be bold and do we have the minds who are willing to accept that challenge?"

"It won't be easy," he continued. "Most of the decisions that we have made on education have been made for the convenience of adults in the system. Our decisions really ought to be driven by the real needs of the children who have been entrusted to our care."



Evan Masseau

SPICE PROVES NICE AT TOWN'S FIRST CHILI CONTEST

On Feb. 21, as part of the town of Middlebury's first Winter Carnival, 28 vendors served 50 different kinds of chili on Main Street. In the professional competition, American Flatbread racked up several awards, including Best Game Chili, Hottest Chili and Best Overall Presentation. In the amateur competition, representatives from the Middlebury Fire Department won top awards in all categories.

Carnival aimed to spur local economy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Skylar Atkins, an employee of the Vermont Book Shop, said that Saturday's events brought a lot of business to the store. He said that compared to the previous weekend, the business saw a welcomed significant increase in business.

Ben Wood, owner of the Otter Creek Bakery, remained positive about the event but said that sales were more sluggish than usual on Saturday.

"We got a little less traffic, but the chili contest was a really big success," he said.

The Mamajamas, a co-ed a cappella group from the College, sang a few festive songs in front of the Ilsley Library. They spiced up "99 Red Balloons" by adding a few personal touches with outbursts of "chili!"

and "chili bowls!"

Although the chili contest was the "anchor event," according to Brady, the other events, especially the Winter Ball, drew large crowds.

More than 100 people of all ages crowded into Two Brothers Tavern on Saturday night for the Winter Ball. Holmes Jacobs, general manager of Two Brothers said the event went very well. The Sandra Wright Band played as people aged five to 75 danced and mingled.

"[The event] definitely opened the door to some people who hadn't been here before," Jacobs said.

Brady, though, is skeptical that people came to the Ball as part of the carnival, and came to the tavern for different reasons.

"A lot of people were there for the spe-

cific band, and a lot of people were there that were left over from the ski races," she said. She said that Two Brothers will definitely hold a Winter Ball again next year.

The Partnership also hosted a raffle that raised \$565.75 for the Addison County Food Shelf. The winner of the raffle, the Morsman family, will enjoy a luxury stay at the Middlebury Inn.

The Partnership met Feb. 23 to assess the day's logistics and discuss what is in store for next year's Carnival. Brady said that they have already decided to hand out one set of cups to each person to reduce waste.

She also said the Partnership plans to move up the time of the event to avoid the cold after sunset, maximizing the warmth of the town's newest winter tradition.

one in 8,200

where the personalities of middlebury proper are celebrated

Otter Creek bookworm brings life to Midd

By Liam Gluck
STAFF WRITER

Marked only by a small wooden plank with white stenciled letters, the Otter Creek Used Bookstore occupies 20 Main St. with some humility.

"Believe it or not, a lot of people know us by the sign," said Barbara Harding, who co-owns Addison County's one and only used bookstore with her husband, Rusty. "Either that, or it spreads by word of mouth. We don't do a lot of marketing."

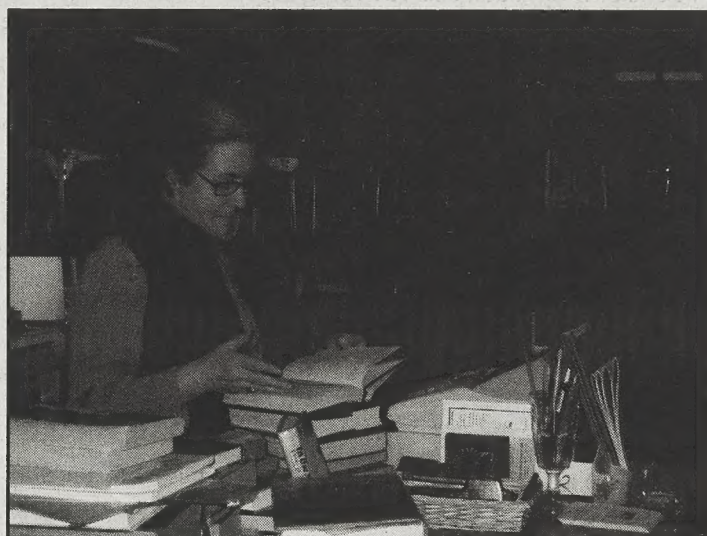
For what it lacks in advertisement, Otter Creek Used Books makes up for in character. Dog-eared paperbacks alternate with yellowed almanacs on fading lilac shelves. The shelves are adorned with pastel-colored pop-sicle sticks, on which the books' subjects have been Sharpied. Harding said she and her husband worked hard at "putting their personality into this place," and it's clear that they prefer the homemade and the eclectic.

A trip down one particular shelf reveals her unique personality: one can leaf through Ellen DeGeneres' autobiography, the Atlas of Global Geography and "The Furniture Decorator" by George Grotz (where one can go "from gunk to glow").

"My family — we're eclectic readers," said Harding. "This store had to be eclectic, because we're eclectic." Her store operates like an exchange: donors may drop off books, sometimes by the bagful, and customers (whether college students, members of town or even her regulars from Burlington) purchase them cheap. The one requirement? That the books have aged.

"I just love old things," Barbara said with a smile, "books as well." Used books, she likes to argue, are of significantly more value than new ones. "I always wonder, you know, who owned the book before? Who read it? If I liked it, who else liked it?"

Barbara combines her imagination with a keen sense of humor. She described her job the same way a Midd-kid might describe Winter Term: "Oh my God, I have no deadlines and I can do whatever I want!" And while telling the story of a woman who almost bought a book online before trying her store, she exclaimed, "Phew! Made me look good!"



Liam Gluck

Barbara Harding, co-owner of Otter Creek Books, has a unique identity as owner of Addison County's only used bookstore.

A graduate of Middlebury Union High School and former member of the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, Barbara said she makes sure to give to the community when she can. She plans to renovate the children's book section (while keeping the wine crate shelving) to make it more accommodating for kids. She's also sold a collection of Samuel de Champlain literature for the quadri-centennial celebration of the explorer's discovery of Lake Champlain. She hopes to display recent art projects of College undergrads in her store.

In a similar fashion to the sign outside her store, Barbara doesn't tout her unique personality from behind the sales desk. But, like the store itself, her personality becomes evident as soon as you open the door.

local lowdown

Ukrainian egg art

Feb. 28, 2-4 p.m.

Ukrainian Artist Theresa Somers of Essex Junction will demonstrate a Ukrainian wax-resist technique of transforming a simple egg into a beautiful work of art. Come celebrate the town of Bristol's Art on Main symposium.

Free. Info: 453-4032



Grief support group

Tuesdays, 5-6:30 p.m.

Hospice Volunteer Services has started a support group for college students and young adults living with loss. If you are wondering how to integrate this experience into your life as a college student or young professional, stop by the Axinn Center on Tuesday evenings. Info: 388-4111.

Pornography in Middlebury?!

Feb. 28, 2-4 p.m.

Come to the Ilsley Library to hear University of Texas journalism professor Robert Jensen present "The Pornification of Pop Culture" and discuss the relationship between media and pornography. Not a suitable event for those under 13 years of age.

"Celtic Fantasy" recital in Benson

March 1, 2 p.m.

The Capitol Chambers Artists will perform "A Celtic Fantasy" at Benson's Community Hall, featuring baroque, Scottish and Irish fiddle and harp music. For more info: 531-3151.

Hip-hop dance lessons

March 4, 2 p.m.

Want to learn how to shake it? Dream of being in Riddim? Come to the Vergennes Opera House next Wednesday for a one-night class taught by certified ACE group fitness instructor Catherine Walker.



The Middlebury Campus

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Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

A leader in sustainability by any other name

The announcement of the 2009 commencement speaker will undoubtedly elicit varied responses from students and other members of the College community, be they glowing, decidedly less enthusiastic or simply uninformed. ("Who is that?" was the most common reaction among *Campus* editors upon hearing the news.) Stonyfield Farm "CE-Yo" Gary Hirshberg certainly lacks the cache of a Bill Clinton, but Old Chapel and the Selection Committee have been quick to trumpet Hirshberg as someone who champions — through both his business practices and personal ethics — many of the ideals that the College holds most dear, serving as a concrete example that sustainability is not anathema to profit.

Still, it is important to remember that not all eco-entrepreneurs are created equal; that Stonyfield's push for reform in the food industry, while admirable, does not necessarily mean its motives are completely in line with Middlebury's. Dining Services at the College has always been notably forthright about its own code when choosing ingredients, which is that local products are universally favored over organic ones. By contrast, the continued success of the Stonyfield brand — an 85 percent stake of which is now controlled by Group Danone, a French conglomerate — lies in Hirshberg's ability to affix organic labels to his company's products and market them on a massive scale. Because of the dearth of locally grown and organic options, Stonyfield Farm must therefore consider (if not actually commit to) sourcing a significant portion of its ingredients from locations around the world, raising the costs of transportation in terms of both treasure and carbon dioxide. Indeed, in 2006, Stonyfield Farm came under fire for exploring the merits of importing milk from New Zealand — a country roughly 9,000 miles distant. Hirshberg's reply to the allegation made clear that Stonyfield has never bought milk from the South Pacific, but the spat also inadvertently raised questions about the scalability of the organic food movement in general.

It is not our intention to make a value judgment about the merits of local versus organic versus fair trade versus carbon-neutral versus the myriad other classifications that can now be associated with the food gracing the shelves of grocery stores across America. To be sure, Middlebury's graduating seniors will benefit greatly from exposure to Hirshberg's business savvy and executive integrity. But our duty demands that we critically evaluate our speakers — not just on their celebrity status, nor on their evident merits, but on their relationship to us, and ours to them.

contact the campus

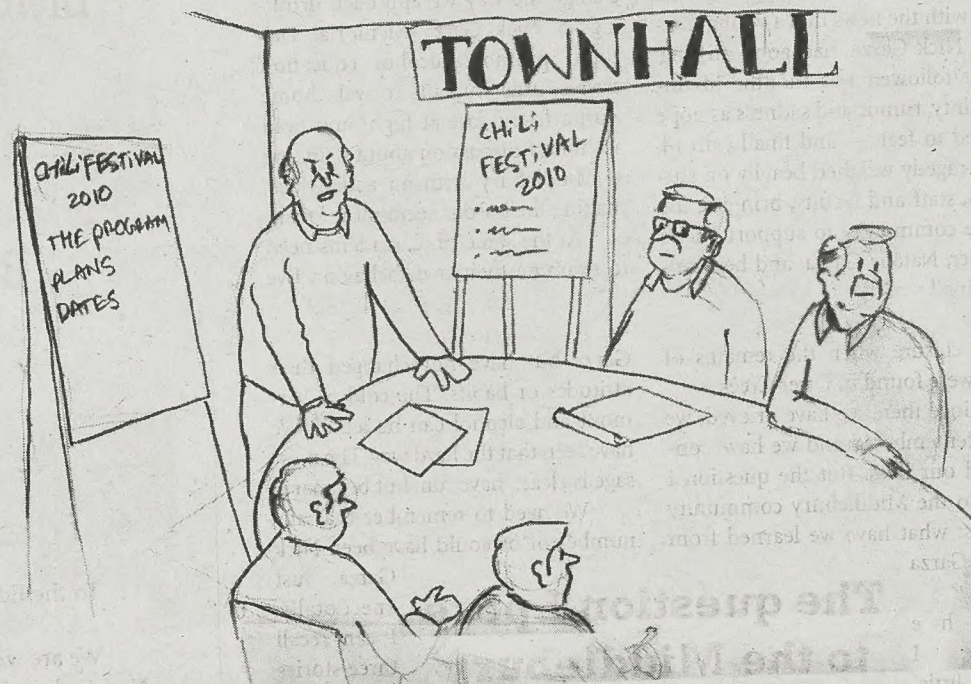
To contact The Middlebury Campus Publications with story tips or content suggestions, e-mail: campus@middlebury.edu

or find us on the web at:

www.middleburycampus.com

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Chili Festival 2010



Confound it, Greg, if you suggest that we replace Middlebury's Chili Festival with a Cottage Cheese Festival one more time I'll move to impeach you!

John Birnbaum

Notes from the Desk: Brian Fung

A hope for employment

There's an emotion typically associated with people like us — people who are young, unemployed, thinking about life after graduation. From what I gather, it's pretty common.

They call it *panic*. Maybe you've heard of it. Maybe you're feeling it.

Panic is a natural response to pressure. And right now, the pressure is definitely on. Ordinarily, I might at this point throw in a revealing statistic about unemployment, or mention the intense competition graduates face when trying to break into the job market. It'd be cliché if it weren't so serious.

But it is serious, which is why so many of us are panicking more than usual. With the economy in the tank, employment prospects are scarce even for experienced job hunters. The implosion of America's top investment banks — businesses that typically recruit heavily among Middlebury graduates — doesn't help.

You'd think our generation would be used to competition by now. After all, the classes of 2009-2012 approached the College when admissions officers nationwide were facing record numbers of applicants. We've battled each other over GPAs, SATs and every other three-letter assessment metric we could qualify ourselves for. We're hyper-individualistic. We're pampered. We're used to fighting to have our way — and getting it.

So to hear that employers won't be throwing themselves at us comes as a slight shock. We've been told since birth that we're unique and special. Who *wouldn't* want to hire us?

The truth is — nobody.

In fact, now is perhaps one of the best times for people our age to be seeking employment. Yes, even at a time of deep financial turmoil. Why the merry outlook, you ask?

What sets us apart from other job hunters is our youth. Once considered an inhibitor — a sign of inexperience or naiveté — that quality might now be the key to improving our chances. Look at Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Google's co-founders. Or Mark Zuckerberg, the man who made Facebook a hit. Or even the president of the United States, Barack Obama. At 47, Obama is among the youngest ever to have worked in the Oval Office. And lest you think any

of these positions are somehow reserved for special spring chickens, Obama's staff also boasts a handful of newly-minted college grads.

The success of these and other youngsters reflects a gradual change in attitude in the United States. Youth has become an asset, not a hindrance. It implies energy, flexibility, a zest for new and creative thinking. More importantly, it offers the will and resources to channel those values into productivity.

On top of these intangibles, young people boast invaluable new skill sets. Like touch-typists 70 years ago, kids today who know how to blog and edit video have an instant leg up over the competition. If they can also text and tweet — don't ask, just look up "Twitter" on Larry's and Sergey's brainchild — so much the better.

And this generation's skills aren't limited to technology. Middlebury's Arabic and Chinese language programs are training future journalists, businessmen, interpreters and analysts. An informal Saturday discussion group at Middlebury is busy trading new political and social ideas, educating and preparing the nation's next leaders — outside of the classroom. College students are now better prepared than ever to tackle the challenges employers face worldwide.

But the best reason to be optimistic? We're attractive to potential employers because we provide all these skills and instincts at a bargain. Older, more experienced workers simply cost more. Businesses thinking about their bottom line — and in this kind of economy, who isn't? — can offset their costs by hiring younger employees willing to work for less. That's good news for us.

None of these qualities are fundamentally new or game-changing. They've always been around, and by themselves, won't automatically get you a job. But the point is to remind ourselves that even as the banks collapse around us, conditions may not be so bad as they seem. So, for anxious college kids with few job prospects and even fewer job offers: panic if you must, but no more than usual. You're probably closer to the front of the line than you think.

BRIAN FUNG '10 IS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
 HE HAILS FROM ROCKVILLE, MD.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Op-Ed: Anthony Adragna Lessons from a tragedy

One year ago, the Middlebury College community was shaken to its core with the news that a young first-year, Nick Garza, had gone missing. What followed was months of uncertainty, rumor and sadness as hope turned to fear — and finally, dread. The tragedy weighed heavily on students, staff and faculty, bringing the entire community to support Nick's mother, Natalie Garza, and her family. Finally, at the beginning of last summer, the community received some closure when the remains of Nick were found in Otter Creek.

Since then, we have grieved, we have remembered and we have continued our lives. But the question I pose to the Middlebury community now is: what have we learned from the Garza tragedy?

The question I pose to the Middlebury community now is: what have we learned from the Garza tragedy?

The answer, I fear, is little. Speaking now as the writer for *The Campus* who covered the tragedy from start to finish, rumors ran rampant

throughout the College. It seems that we never heard any real answers. Various police sources have acknowledged that alcohol played a role in Garza's death but the College has not acknowledged this fact.

That alcohol played a role in this tragedy speaks to the social life at Middlebury. Too often, students believe themselves immortal. They think nothing bad could happen to them in the cold of winter. However, Nick Garza's death proved this was not the case.

Nick's tragedy offers us as a community the opportunity to reevaluate how we, as students, drink. It also offers the community the chance to enter into a discussion on the matter. My fear is that after four years, when the Class of 2011 graduates, the College will have forgotten the story of Nick Garza and could repeat it.

Instead, let's acknowledge the

facts of the case and work actively to change the way we approach drinking. A Nick Garza Memorial Day could promote alcohol education classes, urge students to walk home with a friend late at night and hold an honest discussion about drinking at Middlebury with an actual face, making the lessons seem more "real."

At the same time, students need to examine their own behavior. I've talked to many who know that alcohol played a role in death of Nick Garza but have not changed their attitudes or habits. The cold of Vermont and alcohol can be lethal. We have seen that the hard way. The message is clear: have fun, but be smart.

We need to remember that any number of us could have been Nick

Garza. Just anecdotally, I can recall three stories of students who passed out in the snow to have someone find them. Nick's death offers us, as students, the chance to

change how we approach social life at Middlebury.

Our community suffered an unspeakable tragedy last year. Unfortunately, we have a face to the dangers of winter at Middlebury. Let's turn the incident into something positive. The time has come to engage the entire community, including administrators, students, staff and community members, in an honest and open discussion about alcohol.

However, the final burden rests upon students. We are adults and should act like it. It's time to not brush off Nick Garza as an exception. Instead, let's remember him and use his death as an opportunity to appreciate our lives a little bit more.

ANTHONY ADRAGNA '10 IS A FORMER NEWS EDITOR. HE IS FROM BETHESDA, MD.



heard on campus

When Tim Spears and President Liebowitz have a meeting to discuss the budget, it would help if more than 35 students showed up.

— Bobby Joe Smith '09



Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

We are writing on behalf of the Middlebury women's squash team. Our team competed in Nationals at Harvard on Feb. 13-15, topping off one of our most successful seasons in over a decade. We were disappointed that the sum of our achievements this year did not receive more than a passing mention in a recent edition of *The Middlebury Campus*.

Here's what *The Campus* missed in its reporting: The women's squash team finished #13 in the nation, which includes all Division I and III schools. Over the weekend of February 13-15, we faced #12 Bowdoin, losing 6-3; and then proceeded to beat #16 GWU 8-1 and #14 Bates 6-3, in the finals of the consolation. Nationals is organized according to divisions. The A Division includes the #1-8 teams in the nation (Princeton, Penn, Trinity, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Stanford, and Williams); the B Division includes the #9-16 teams (Brown, Dartmouth, Mt. Holyoke, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Bates, Hamilton, GWU); and so on. What many people may not realize is that all of these divisions are connected and any team is capable of being a part of any division. There are a total of 37 teams in the nation—and we went from being #18 last year to #13. That jump in the rankings is a newsworthy achievement.

Not only did we vastly improve our national standing this year, but we also set a new record for the number of wins in one season in the history of Middlebury Women's Squash. We expected that these achievements might have received more than a perfunctory blurb in *The Campus*. Instead of a profile of our successful season, the *Campus* chose to publish a feature on "The art of the zamboni master," while our accomplishments were reduced to a sports briefs item.

This is not the first time *The Campus* has overlooked the squash program. The paper did not send photographers to our home matches against Hamilton, Williams, and Dartmouth. Given that Middlebury rarely hosts Ivy League schools for athletic events, we were surprised at this glaring editorial oversight.

While we recognize that Middlebury's athletics program is not limited to the men's and women's squash teams, and that the school is host to a diverse array of athletes, we hope the squash program will receive more equitable coverage from *The Middlebury Campus* going forward.

Respectfully,

Tri-captains Sally Hatfield '09, Caroline Woodworth '09 and Brooke Farquhar '08.5

Lupo Fiasco: Kate Lupo Harmful beauty

At the Winter Ball this weekend, it was exciting to see the usual "sweatpants and UGG" library crowd become the beautiful swans that dazzled the dance floor. Girls in their most glamorous outfits shimmied and swayed next to clean-shaven boys sporting suits and ties. One student even wore a kilt.

For these magical beauty transformations to occur, a lot of cleaning, teasing, spraying, primping, smearing and spritzing takes place all over campus in dorm rooms, in bathrooms, in closets, etc. Most Middlebury students, and especially women, rely on a myriad of beauty products to prepare themselves for nights of revelry. I know that I rely on wearing mascara and undereye make up whenever I intend on being seen in public. Many women on campus similarly depend on cosmetics to make themselves look great, but have we ever wondered what exactly is in the products we use or the potential dangers we face in using them? I think it is time we started to pay attention...

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics is a national coalition of nonprofit health and environmental organizations with the collective goal "to protect the health of consumers and workers by requiring the personal care products industry to phase out the use of chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects and other serious health concerns and replace them with safer alternatives." Can the beauty products we use actually put us at risk for serious health problems? It turns out, the answer is yes.

Many women at the Winter Ball looked hot in sensuous shades of lipstick. Lipstick is harmless, right? Wrong. Many popular lipstick brands actually contain lead — a neurotoxin

that is harmful to the brain. In 2007, the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics tested 33 lipstick brands for lead content with sobering results. According to their Web site, "61 percent of lipsticks contained lead, with levels ranging up to 0.65 parts per million. Lead-contaminated brands included L'Oréal and Cover Girl." In our country, it is legal for lipstick and other cosmetic products sold in the United States to contain "unlimited amounts of lead."

What about the sparkling nail polish you may have used this weekend? Beware: nail polish, polish removers and artificial nail products actually contain a host of toxic chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer, reproductive harm, asthma and other negative health effects. Those who work in nail salons are especially at risk for these serious health problems.

At the ball, your boyfriend or dance partner may have complemented you on your choice of fragrance. What the man does not know is that your fragrance may contain "dozens or even hundreds of synthetic chemical compounds" that can trigger "asthma ... and immune system damage" and expose you both to neurotoxins. Next time you reach for your Chanel perfume bottle, you may want to think again.

The idea of toxic chemicals in cosmetics may make my readers anxious or even angry. These are healthy reactions that lead us to ask certain questions. Why have cosmetic companies been able to distribute harmful products for so many years without repercussions? Why hasn't the FDA performed more tests on toxic ingredients?

Many activist groups like the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics have organized efforts to combat unsafe cosmetics, and

though some have achieved great success, too many dangerous products still remain on the shelves. It is already unfair that we live in a society where girls are encouraged to wear cosmetics from an early age, so it is equally depressing that most women remain uninformed of the dangers involved in beautifying themselves day in and day out.

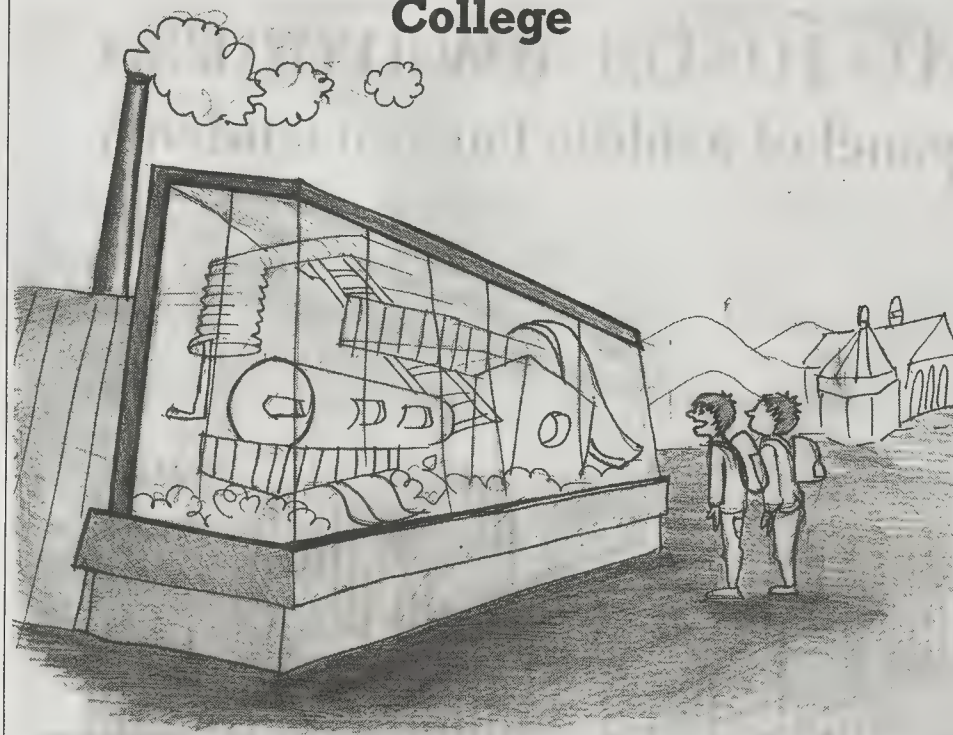
In order to reduce our risk to harmful chemicals in cosmetics, it is time for all women to make more informed choices as consumers. Instead of buying just any brand of lipstick that looks good, look for brands that are "lead-free." Look for less toxic brands and formulations of nail polishes in the "Skin Deep" online database, bring your own polish on salon visits and always apply and remove polish in a well-ventilated area. When fragrance shopping, choose brands that only contain "natural fragrance or essential oils."

For all the ladies on campus: it may be hard to think of putting down that bottle of sexy perfume you just bought or throwing out your favorite nail polish, but I would advise you to re-evaluate the products you own for your health and the health of those around you.

For all the men on campus: it is important that you, too, are aware of dangerous cosmetics and the health risks involved in their use. The next time your girlfriend starts applying lead-infused lipstick or painting her nails with toxic chemicals to look good for you, you might gently tell her that she does not need these products to impress you. Whisper sweetly in her ear that you prefer her body just the way it is.

KATE LUPO '10 IS FROM WESTON, CONN.

The latest construction at Middlebury College



Yo, we should have our next birthday party here!

Elizabeth Zevallos

Op-Ed: Zach Fenster A deeper understanding

I just returned from Israel for the first time since I lived there last year. As I sat in my seat on the plane in Tel Aviv, waiting to take off to New York, I started thinking about my transition from Israel to Middlebury, with the perspective of having finished a semester and Winter Term of college, and with a war in Gaza just passed. I remember how nervous I was when I came back in August that I would lose the perspective — the sense of personal connection — which had seeped so deeply into me by the time I left. I returned with a much deeper understanding of Israel, more attuned to its conflicts and rich society. Even if I could not always put words to my thoughts, I felt like after spending a year exploring Israel I could emotionally empathize with and even identify with the essence of what defines many spheres of Israeli society. Heading off to college, I wondered if this link would persevere or if it would fade away in my new environment in New England. Now that I am returning again, I wonder what role Middlebury — and more broadly, a liberal arts education — can play in that connection.

Let me backtrack and explain. Last year, I participated in a yearlong program for post-high school Israeli teens who wanted to take a year to serve as civilians before joining the army. I am not Israeli, but I wanted to meet Israelis my own age and speak Hebrew. The program was located in a housing project in Jerusalem and included a lot of community service work with children from the area. The program also sought to include participants from all over the spectrum of Jewish life in Israel, something that clearly attracted us all to the program, but also scared us a little bit more than at least I was willing to admit.

Aside from the Israeli-Arab conflict — or maybe because of it — Israel is a very fractious community. The divides between secular and religious, left wing and right wing and rich and poor are quite deep, a situation reflected in the country's political realities. But slowly, as our program progressed, the definitions that separated us melted away into genuine mutual recognition and appreciation. We got to know and like each other. During the Sabbath (Israel has a one-day weekend), we visited friends in their homes whether or not we agreed politically with the placement. We became less defensive and more open. This transformed the group dynamics. Suddenly, our mutual responsibility to one another and to our work in the community became the defining factor in our relationship, and as a result, we were able to see much more of where every individual came from, as opposed to pigeonholing their perspective.

As a foreigner, this was all pretty shocking to me. But in retrospect, I think there comes a time during a year abroad when you realize that by virtue of the emotional attach-

ments you develop with people, the place slowly begins to mold you. I remember feeling several months into my year that I understood concerns of the regions' residents in a completely different way than when I had arrived because of the emotional shift that took place inside of me. I was catalyzed by my program. I realized one day that I had something in common with all of the inhabitants of Israel and, as a result, Israel felt like home to me in a much more real way than it ever had before.

This also changed my understanding of the conflict from a mostly intellectual one to a largely emotional one. When I heard of an attack against civilians or a land-for-peace deal, it was the narratives of the people living there — the feelings they had and the way those things fit into the totality of the narrative there — that came to mind. This is much more a sensitized understanding than an objective one, and it leads to hazier truths.

This feeling slowly became less acute the more time I spent at Middlebury. Middlebury's intellectualism certainly provides room for gray area, but in a situation as explosive and complicated as Middle-Eastern peace, dialogue often gets boiled down to the bottom line. This was both exciting and frustrating, as the emotional complexity I had come to associate with various scenarios was often swept away.

But with the breakout of the war in Gaza, I felt increasing tension between these two perspectives. Actually, I felt like the emotional understanding I felt I had was beginning to disappear, perhaps because time was moving on, or perhaps because it was too hard to hold on to. I experienced what might be a common phenomenon for people who have personal connections to highly sensitive issues: often, I felt a great gap in discussions, but an inability to convey what I wanted to.

When I returned to Israel over Feb break, some of those lost feelings came back. Seeing my old friends come home in their uniforms with their guns brought me back quickly, as did hearing people's frustration with Hamas and with what to many seems like a situation with no end in sight.

What I also realized though, is that each of my understandings from Israel and from Middlebury is incomplete without the other. Intellectual understanding is unquestionably important; indeed, excessive adherence to emotion alone may very well perpetuate some of the conflict. But we must also be sure, especially in a community as interested in — but in many ways removed from — the world as Middlebury, not to gloss over difficult emotional realities in our search for answers.

ZACH FENSTER '12 IS FROM
NEW YORK CITY.

Elephant in the Room: Stefan Claypool Change we can believe in?

You'll never hear me argue that George W. Bush was a great president. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that despite public outcries to the contrary, many of his policies were acceptable responses to bad situations. President Barack Obama seems to recognize that fact, which is why the first month of his foreign policy has been less about change and more about continuing the policies of his unpopular predecessor. In fact, it's only when he has deviated from Bush's foreign policy that Obama has run into trouble abroad — and emboldened those eager to test America's resolve.

A review of the Guantanamo Bay military prison conducted by the Pentagon and ordered by President Barack Obama has determined that the treatment of detainees does in fact meet the requirements of the Geneva Convention. At the same time, the Obama administration ruled on Feb. 21 that detainees being held at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan do not have rights under the United States Constitution and therefore cannot use U.S. courts to challenge their detention. Additionally, Obama's Secretary of State and former rival Hillary Clinton boldly declared that human rights in China were secondary to economic relations, and that issues like Tibet and Taiwan wouldn't receive substantial attention in the coming years. And the man — who once famously said, "I am not persuaded that 20,000 additional troops in Iraq is going to solve the sectarian violence" — has given the order to send 17,000 extra U.S. military personnel into Afghanistan. That doesn't sound much like the man who fiery liberal voters elected last fall.

But that's not to say that Obama is a Bush clone. After all, I doubt that Bush would have responded to Iranian President Ahmadinejad's demand of an apology for past wrongs against Iran with the hearty "Yes, I can!" that President Obama did. Obama wrote a letter to the Iranian government offering his sincerest apologies — an empty gesture that was met by an Iranian declaration that the U.S.'s newfound willingness to talk was a sign of weakness. Nor would Bush likely have allowed for Vladimir Putin's Russia

to seize control of supply transportation to and from Afghanistan following Kyrgyzstan's decision to evict U.S. forces from the Manas Air Force Base. And it's hard to see George W. Bush congratulating new Venezuelan President-for-Life Hugo Chavez on overcoming those pesky democratic institutions that so often stand in the way of one man's attainment of real power. Obama was quick to pick up the phone and make that call.

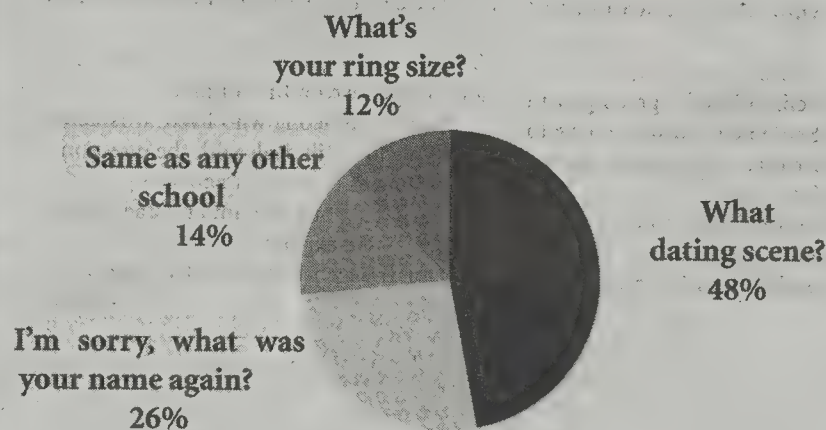
Despite spending years decrying Bush's supposed shredding of the Constitution, liberals have not taken issue with Obama's continuance of the same policies. It raises an important question: what did this country vote for last Nov. 4? Did we vote for a belief structure, or did we vote for Barack Obama, who may shift his beliefs at will and even adopt the unpopular policies of his predecessor and face no reprisals? Sadly, we seem to have elected the latter. Our leaders should not receive a free pass, nor should we follow their words merely because they came from their lips. I happen to agree with President Obama's decision to continue some of George Bush's policies, but I'm a dirty Republican and a conservative to boot. If I were a liberal who voted for Obama, I would be outraged by the President's refusal to deliver the change he promised.

If you travel to Russia or China, you can view the mummified corpses of Lenin and Mao. But in America, such displays are reserved for the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In this country, we enshrine our ideals. Let's follow them, then, and expect the same of our leaders. Barack Obama has many ideas for this country, and it is important that we judge those ideas on their own merit. But it seems that for now, most liberals are willing to adapt their belief structure to Obama's policies rather than ask that his policies adapt to their belief structure. That's a dangerous road, and in our present crisis, it's one we must walk with the utmost care.

STEFAN CLAYPOOL '10 IS FROM
MEQUAN, WISC.

The Campus Poll

How would you characterize
Middlebury's dating scene?



Responses

Am I allowed to use this space to remind my boyfriend that the deadline for daf-fodil orders is today?

— Molly Lincoln '11

The dating scene on campus? I didn't know there was a dating scene on campus.

— Erich Enns '10

Middlebury's dating scene is like a terribly tragic version of *Gossip Girl*. If you choose somewhere like Flatbread for your dinner rendezvous, everyone stares at you and sends out rumor-ridden texts like real-life Blair Waldorf so by the time you return to campus, those who didn't know you were dating someone now do and those who did already know how your date went before you can even tell them yourself.

— Sean Maye '11

Next week's question:

Are you happy with the choice of Gary Hirshberg as the Class of 2009's commencement speaker?

Differing "Voices" unite to foster awareness

Institutional Diversity Committee hosts panel of Middle Eastern students

By Rachael Jennings

FEATURES EDITOR

It is all over the news: Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims and Jews — people struggling in an archaic conflict that still lives vividly in the memories and minds of the Middle East. Bombings, riots and refugees pervade the media. But there is more to their stories than an anchorperson's account of a very complex and emotional struggle.

On Feb. 18, students and professors flooded Axinn 219 for the Institutional Diversity Committee's (IDC) debut of their "Voices" series. This premiere event, "Voices from the Middle East," featured five panelists: Nathan Blumenshine '09.5, Diana Gor '12, Nisreen Hejab '10, Duna Tatour '12 and Jacob Udell '12, who shared insight into the struggle underway in the region.

Students from the IDC — a subset of the Student Government Association (SGA) — including Zach Fenster '11, Janet Rodrigues '12, Alec Weltzien '09 and Becky Harper '11, the SGA chair of diversity, have made a concerted effort to create more of a dialogue about what is going on in Israel and Palestine as a means of examining the complexity and the intense emotions that surround the conflict.

"We hope that next time you hear something in the news, you have a face and a story to remember," explained Fenster in his introduction to the event.

The speakers were asked to ground their speeches in their own personal experiences without delving too much into politics which many panelists expressed difficulty in doing. They spoke candidly from notes, from speeches and from their memories to help audience members relate to their emotions.

Udell, a self-described religious Jew, started off the dialogue with a captivating story of his four-month stay on a religious commune in Israel, where he studied Jewish mysticism.

"It was not only a process of learning incredible teachings, but a process of uncovering intense issues from the Israeli political sphere," said Udell.

The rabbis with whom he worked had extreme views within religious Zionism. Many believed that not one inch of Israeli land should be relinquished, agreeing with the West Bank Settlement (which refers to the settling of territory captured during the Six-Day War of June 1967).

Udell was afforded the opportunity to stay for a weekend at the house of the chief rabbi, an unbelievably beautiful place, while also spending a few days with a Palestinian family. He spoke with Rabbi Cook, the first chief rabbi of Israel, and also found time to visit the Wailing Wall. Through these experiences, he experienced the tension between the natural beauty of the West Bank, where the settlements have made that part of the desert bloom, and accounts of oppression he has encountered.

One of the most touching experiences for Udell was hearing of an Israeli gunman who opened fire in a religious Zionist school. Six children died in the religious place of study.

"They were doing exactly what I was doing," said Udell.

Udell has seen firsthand how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has hurt human lives and he sees compassion as the primary device of implementing change.

"I believe in a two-state solution and Israeli settlements are one of the biggest obstructions to that piece," Udell said. "But I

see a need for compassion. It is easy to point fingers (at the extremists of the 'enemy'), but it is actually time for people to start working more towards relating to the extremists of their own nation, engaging those people."

The second speaker began her portion with a laugh.

"They asked me not to be political," said Tatour, "but I'm sure none of you want to hear that I used to do ceramics or that I did gymnastics for two years."

Tatour, an Arab Muslim from Tel Aviv, began by explaining the Declaration of the Israeli State, which promised to ensure freedom of religion, language and culture to all inhabitants. She asked us to look, 60 years later, at the recent reality: Arabs own only three percent of national land and 29 percent of Arabs live below the poverty line, as compared to only 16 percent of Jews. A survey conducted a few years ago showed that one-third of Israeli youth admit to being racist or hating Arabs, while two-thirds of Israeli youth reported that they do not want to give Arab citizens equal rights.

"They will grant Israeli citizenship to a Jew living anywhere, while my friends and uncles can't return to their homeland," Tatour explained.

She spoke Hebrew at school and Arabic at home — one of the reasons Tatour only placed into Arabic 103 at the College.

"I never felt like I had a nation," she said, "I never really thought about identity."

That is, until she heard of 13 Arabs being shot during a protest in October 2000.

"It was at this point that I realized that I belong to a nation that is being discriminated against over and over again in its own state," Tatour said.

She has now learned how to separate the cultural, religious and political parts of her identity, and hopes to move forward with a new perspective on the conflict.

Gor, as someone who lived in Israel for her whole life, still deals with the question of what it means to be an Israeli.

"I never thought 'I am an Israeli' until I left Israel," she explained.

Gor traveled to the United World College in Wales for her last two years of high school, and it was there — outside of her comfort zone as one of only two Israelis in the entire school — that she suddenly felt responsible for representing Israel.

She cited the example of debate nights that were held at the school.

"In a way, when you leave your country, you feel like you have to defend it, even if you don't agree with everything they do," Gor said.

Comparing her life in the United Kingdom with her life in America, Gor maintained that it is much easier to be an Israeli in the United States.

"Everyone 'understands,'" she said, "or they think they understand," she added with a laugh.

"It is fashionable to be pro-Palestinian," Gor clarified, explaining the atmosphere at her liberal European school. "It is cool to be a peace supporter. However, people don't know as much as they think they know."



Joanna Rothkopf

Five students shared unique personal perspectives on the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

"Before you represent a political view," she advised, "find your own understanding. Take advantage of our international school."

Hejab, who is from the West Bank, elaborated on this idea of finding real understanding before assuming things about the Middle Eastern conflict and the people involved in it.

She said that when most people meet her and ask where she is from, their response is usually, "Wow, that is so cool!"

"Do you really know, though?" Hejab asked the audience.

Between the years of 1948 and 1967, Hejab's grandparents lived in a refugee camp in tents with no running water. Eventually, they received a house. Since houses were allocated according to how many people were in a given family, her grandparents' family of 13 received a one-room house that was smaller than the classroom in which Hejab spoke.

Hejab herself was born in the refugee camp where she lived until 1999. She described it as "not the best experience."

She told a few stories from her experiences as a Palestinian, one of which took place in 2002, when there was a huge invasion on the West Bank. There was tremendous destruction, and a curfew was set — they could not walk on the streets or even open the blinds on their windows without the risk of being shot. There was no water or electricity for twenty days.

That year, her house was bombed while her family was sleeping. The glass from the window fell on their faces, but luckily, no one was killed.

"There are a lot of scars on my memory," explained Hejab. "So, yeah, it is not cool."

Hejab then took some time to delve into her thoughts on the problems in Palestine.

"Yes, it is an 'unfair, unjust' war, but it is not only the Israelis' fault," she said. "We are not doing much to help the situation. We are putting ourselves into this dogma: 'We're the victims, we're the victims, we're the victims.'"

She explained that Palestine needs to become more economically independent.

Hejab also told of her Winter Term trip to Ukraine last year with her class. She explained that she really respected the Jews.

"Jews are able to overcome the hardship they faced in the Holocaust," she said. "They have learned. They don't stand and point fin-

ers. They made a beautiful thing out of their pain — they move forward."

Hejab expressed her desire to move forward as well, and concluded in saying, "I hope one day I'll have a country."

Next, Blumenshine took the floor, wearing a t-shirt that read: "God bless the world. No exceptions."

"Although my name sounds Jewish, I'm not. I have no Muslim blood or Palestinian background," he said. "I am a Lutheran from Minnesota."

Blumenshine's platform was simple: "Everyone is a person."

"Every Israeli is a person," he explained. "Every Palestinian is a person. Every terrorist is a person. Every extremist settler is a person. And I mean people like you and me."

After working for five months at a joint-advocacy initiative in Bethlehem, Blumenshine gained many insightful experiences. While in Bethlehem, he found a new best friend in a 14-year-old boy named Odai.

Odai had the patience to speak Arabic with him, and they enjoyed talking about girls, playing Frisbee and baking cookies together.

Blumenshine explained to Odai that he had been to Israel and that Israelis were "awesome. They are great people."

But it was a hard sell until Odai approached Blumenshine and asked him if they could go to Jerusalem. Despite his proximity to the border, Odai had never been there because no Palestinian over 15 is allowed to go without a special permit.

After being turned away at the first checkpoint, the pair entered Jerusalem through a different one and Odai saw Israelis and Palestinians walking on the same streets for the first time. They visited the Holocaust museum and the Old City. Later, while attempting to enter the Al-Aqsa mosque, they were once again stopped very aggressively by soldiers and Odai was pushed around a little.

Afterward, Blumenshine could tell that his friend was a little shaken after being intimidated by people so much bigger than he. Even so, seeing so many other Israelis and Palestinians helped Odai learn an important lesson — the decidedly simple truth that even our enemies are people.

"Odai is a person," concluded Blumenshine, "and so is everyone else."

Breaking through

Paralyzed skier prepares for the climb of a lifetime,

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Community service

Find out how you can get involved and make a difference,

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The skating scoop

Look inside the world of the Middlebury ice show,

page 15

Get involved! Make a Difference!

ACE Office offers variety of service organizations to join

Located on the first floor of the McCullough Student Center, the Alliance for Civic Engagement (ACE) is Middlebury's impressively successful facilitator of volunteer opportunities, ranging from social advocacy to environmental protection to education and mentoring. Created in 2003 through an alumna's support, it has developed into a multifaceted organization that provides Middlebury students and professors with enriching opportunities.

One of ACE's main goals, as expressed by its director, Tiffany Sargent, is to foster a more intimate relationship between the College and the town. It aims to achieve this by providing students with the chance to pursue their passions outside of the classroom, while contributing to the betterment of the community. The directors of ACE maintain regular communication with the town to remain updated on its needs. Such projects are often short-term or one time events. Presently, some projects that do not require a regular commitment include volunteering for the Charter House, a new transitional housing facility in town, and preparing community supper on Friday nights at the First Congregational Church.

Another way ACE cultivates this symbiotic relationship with the town is through finding ways to connect coursework with community projects; thereby allowing for the practical application of skills, as well as invaluable support for the community. One project undertaken by students in a geography course helped the Addison NE Supervisory Union redirect its bus routes to be more cost-efficient.

ACE's impact spans far beyond the Middlebury community, though. Through Middlebury Alternative Breaks (MAlt), students have the opportunity to volunteer both nationally and internationally. Past trips have included community development in El Salvador, trail maintenance in Utah and farming in Mexico.

At present, essentially endless opportunities exist. After one trip to the ACE office you could partake in a service, volunteer or advocacy project every day. If there is a new project you would like to undertake, the ACE staff is more than willing to help. They enjoy their advisory



role through which they can facilitate "networking, connections, and to a certain degree funding," said Peggy Burns, associate director of ACE. Just five years ago, a student proposed bringing Relay for Life to Middlebury. Through his collaboration with ACE, Middlebury has since raised over \$800,000 through this event.

This past week ACE held its biannual MiddAction Fair when many of the groups that collaborate with Middlebury congregated in McCullough to present their organizations and encourage involvement. If you missed it and are interested in incorporating your talents and interests into a service project, check out ACE online or stop by its office. The ACE staff also sends frequent emails of updated opportunities. Read their emails before deleting them! The ACE team is an invaluable resource to our community; it is worth the quick trip to their office to see what they have to offer.

What follows are just a few of the clubs and organizations that help connect the College and community and work to make a difference where they can.

— Corinne Beaugard, Staff Writer
All Photos, Courtesy

Page 1 Literacy

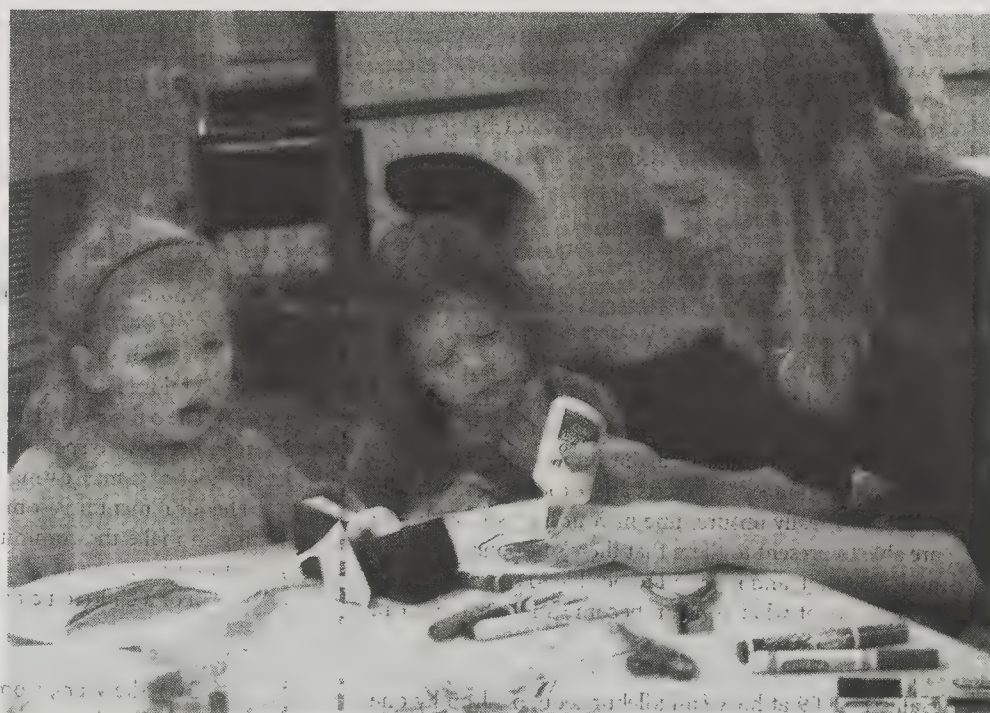
Page 1 Literacy exemplifies the kind of devotion and unswerving commitment that Middlebury students embody. If not the most active community service group on campus, it definitely ranks high on the list. For years now, the students of Page 1 Literacy have pledged their services to literacy in Addison County, trying their utmost to give children a passion for reading and learning. As Molly Holmes, the group's off-campus coordinator said, "We try to promote literacy by making reading a fun and accessible activity."

Every week, Middlebury students contribute their time to eight elementary after-school programs and one middle school book club. In addition, the group plans various larger events during the year to promote reading, such as a Halloween party, a Winter Reading Carnival and a Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Reading Day. Yuki Shinoda, the current treasurer, described last year's Spring Reading Carnival with enthusiasm. The carnival was held in tents to give it a jungle theme and various clubs on campus "provided books to read and craft activities related to their club[s]," according to Shinoda.

Overall, Page 1 Literacy is positive about its group's efforts to create a reading culture in a fun and lively way. "The continuing interest that the schools show in having Page 1 volunteers (be it reading program, homework helpers, creative writing) tells that what we are doing is welcomed," said Shinoda.

If you would like to get more involved with Page 1 Literacy, contact Rachael Jennings at rjennings@middlebury.edu.

— Dana Walters, Staff Writer



WomenSafe

"I think WomenSafe is important because we are all in relationships of some sort and healthy relationships are something that we should all strive to have and encourage in our communities," said Rayna Rogowsky '09, the student advocate for WomenSafe.

WomenSafe offers a variety of services and support to anyone affected by domestic and sexual violence in Addison County and Rochester. It has a Supervised Visitation program as well. WomenSafe offers a 24-hour hotline service, which volunteers from the community and the College sign up to run each month. There is always a staff member on call to be a "backup" for the volunteers. Volunteers meet once a month to debrief about calls and offer peer support and are always welcome to talk to staff about any of their concerns.

Rogowsky first heard about the program in February 2006 when the staff made a presentation at the College's production of the Vagina Monologues. She applied for the training program.

This 32-hour training session, broken up over a few weeks, covers topics such as "Domestic Violence / Sexual Violence 101," which teaches the volunteers how to help someone apply for a Relief from Abuse Order (restraining order), as well as how other community responders such as police officers and counselors can be utilized.

"It is a great experience for college students to meet and learn from members of the community who are also participating in the training," said Rogowsky.

After the training sessions, volunteers become a part of the WomenSafe network, respond to calls made to the hotline and continue to meet as a team. Volunteers feel strongly about upholding their roles in support of those victims of sexual and domestic violence and truly desire to help make a difference.

Said volunteer Sydney Ward '11, "Domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes that are often marginalized or stigmatized. People are often unaware of the prevalence in our culture of violence against women and are unwilling to confront it when they do. WomenSafe provides a safe space for women and helps them utilize the resources available to them."

— Rachael Jennings, Features Editor

Beeman Mentors

Of the 118 kids who attend Beeman Elementary School in New Haven, Vt., 80 percent of them, in third through sixth grade, are fortunate enough to be mentored by a Middlebury College student. About an hour drive north from Middlebury, Beeman hires student volunteers from the college to tutor kids one day a week for one hour.

The benefits of being a mentor is a two way street. "I think that College students would say it is just as rewarding for them as it is for us," said Julie Olson, director of Beeman's mentorship program.

Beeman's program brings Middlebury students into a community that asks its members to commit to leading children towards the pursuit of a college education. Olson's long-term goal is for all students who are eligible for the mentorship program to have a mentor. Mentors from Middlebury range from hockey players to theatre majors, from the women's lacrosse team to the Nordic ski team. Scheduling is flexible: Olson ties Middlebury's and Beeman's schedules together, so students can plan mentoring sessions accordingly.

Beyond the classroom, Middlebury's mentors organize activities for their kids. In the past, Beeman has come to athletic events to see their mentors on sports teams in action and has even roamed outdoors with the Mountain Club.

All mentors are encouraged to stay with Beeman for four years, so the child has the same mentor from third through sixth grade. This fosters a strong connection and develops a relationship that works to effectively teach and imbue a passion for learning, mentor to child and child to mentor.

Contact Julie Olson at juolson@anesu.org for more information.

— Carson Dietz Hartmann, Staff Writer



Sister-to-Sister

Sister-to-Sister combines community outreach, personal support, discussion of women's issues and good old-fashioned fun, described Ashley Panichelli '10, who has participated for three years. The program is a collaboration of three generations of women to establish a community and create an outlet for discussion that Panichelli termed a "safezone." Once a month, the group hosts an event paired with a forum on a related topic. Past events have included afternoons of swimming and log rolling followed by a dialogue about body image and a day cooking together while discussing what it means to be a good friend. The three generations of women involved, that create what Panichelli described as a "three-level system of mentoring" are seventh and eighth-grade students from Bristol, Vergennes and Middlebury Union middle schools, Middlebury College students and faculty and staff.

"We always talk about how awkward middle school was," Panichelli said of conversations she and her fellow student volunteers have had with the older members. "One of the best ways to learn and teach someone [how to survive the 'awkwardness' of middle school] is to have experienced it yourself," she said. "We still haven't mastered some of these issues, and neither have the adults in our group, but we can show the girls that it gets easier."

Panichelli emphasized the importance of the diversity of volunteers' interests and experiences. "Middle school is a really unsure time in your life," she said. "We are able to present to them that there's not one right way to deal with it, and it's good to be able to show that kind of diversity at what you can become and what you can achieve."

Contact Panichelli at apaniche@middlebury.edu or Hallie Fox '09 at hfox@middlebury.edu, or drop by one of Sister-to-Sister's meetings at 7 p.m. on Thursdays in the Chellis House if you are interested in attending or planning an event.

— H. Kay Merriman, Features Editor

Community Friends

Since 1960, Community Friends has existed as a mentor-based organization at Middlebury College. Today, the group is still running strong, having already matched nearly 4,000 Middlebury students with children in Addison County.

"The goal is to match volunteers with children in the community that are needing extra support and a positive role model," said Betsy Mackey, assistant director for community service at the College. "It's a great opportunity for the children to come on campus so they can see college down the road for themselves."

School guidance counselors, therapists and parents recommend the children for the program.

"A lot of the parents of the children had a mentor when they were children, so it's kind of neat to see that cycle," said Mackey.

The pairs are matched according to interests and often decide together how to spend their time. Typical activities include going to hockey games, eating at the dining halls and going to movies. The ideal mentor is someone who is energetic, friendly and willing to make the commitment of about two hours a week for a minimum of a year.

"For a child to be matched with someone, then have the volunteer bail out — that's worse than not having anybody at all," said Mackey.

Over the years, Community Friends has evolved into more than a mentoring program: it now serves as a cultural exchange and a way to put things into perspective by getting out of the Middlebury College lifestyle.

"I think it's a connection and a friendship and just a different perspective," said Mackey. "It's great for the College students to get off campus and get to know the greater community."

For more information on how to get involved with Community Friends, contact Betsy K.B. Mackey at bbassin@middlebury.edu or by phone at (802) 443-3010.

— Catherine Ofelia, Staff Writer

Relay for Life

A thousand people, live music, overnight camping, food and free t-shirts? Relay for Life is certainly a unique and dynamic fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. This event's slogan, "If cancer doesn't sleep, neither do we," is championed by volunteers who gather down on the athletic fields to "celebrate, remember and fight back" for an entire night by maintaining at least one member from each team on the track at all times (from 3 p.m. until morning). One in three people suffer from cancer in their lives, making Relay a very worthy cause to support, but even if you just enjoy having fun on a spring evening you should check it out. Relay for Life is the biggest community service event on campus, have raised over \$830,000 so far, but one of its co-organizers, Tiffany Orlowski, let slip that it is actually "a big overnight party."

As a former participant Orlowski said, "there is an aspect of Relay for everyone and you can really make it your own." The football team conspicuously fields a relay team each walking what, five minutes? There are only a billion of them.

Or if you are superhuman, you can be like one Middlebury student who has walked the entire time, about 18 hours, for the past two years. When you're not on the track, you can enjoy performances by a cappella groups, DJs and Riddim World Dance Troupe, and food provided by the Lion's Club. There is still plenty of time to sign up. Visit www.relayforlife.org/middleburycollege and participate on May 1.

— Jamie Studwell, Staff Writer

Let's Talk About Sex, Babies

by Veracity Butcher

Getting off is something we all enjoy differently. Depending on our preferences, we engage in oral, vaginal, anal, monogamous, self-satisfying, random, gleeful, gender-bending, memorable, fleeting and surprising sex. Human beings are unique from most animals in their lust for sex. Sex, to us, is not just for babies. Birth control has been around for centuries; Ancient Egyptians experimented with it, and rewashable sheep skins and linen clothes were used before latex condoms hit the market. And then there's the pill, the patch or the ring. Now we just have too many choices to even fully realize what we actually crave.

The clitoris is the only organ on the human body that has evolved solely for pleasure. Over the course of history, man has developed quite a large member/body ratio in proportion to his animal counterparts. Our bodies aren't just built for reproduction, we're built for good sex. Orgasming is an ethereal, muscle-snatching experience that we desire. Perhaps we should pursue it more often.

What gets you really excited?

Chances are, if you're a male, you're more stimulated by images than most women. Pornography can be appealing to women too, but since most pornos are made for a male audience, women just aren't as into it. Personally, I don't mind watching sex on screen if the porn star has natural breasts, and if the story is good, as in the film *Short Bus*. Women, however, tend to get more turned on by emotion or imagination. In fact, the chances of women being able to orgasm solely through fantasizing is higher than in men. Guys may think about sex all the time, but they don't get off just by thinking. Unless they are really concentrating.

Women are often perceived as more sentimental, and men as more action-oriented. It's a gross generalization, but it's interesting to keep in mind throughout your sexual education. Different levels of emotional attachment are more sexy to different people and that may have something to do with our evolutionary programming. New research indicates that when a hetero man sees a hot woman in a bikini, he uses parts of his brain associated with handling tools and the intention to perform actions. Women, interestingly, aren't particularly turned on by a naked man unless he's hard: his readiness for sex is what we find sexy. Straight girls can totally be excited by a naked woman if she is in a sexual pose. It's possible that females and males are equally as interested in sex as an "act," but what that act really entails, emotionally and physically, varies according to our personal desires.

It's all fine and well to ponder what we are as sexual beings. It's necessary to understand sex as a complex act that manifests itself in countless ways. And while considering the possibilities can make for some racy discussions, what I'm concerned with is not just what Middlebury College students are saying, but what they're doing. In bed. "My walls are really thin, or I'd think no one ever hooked up," says a sexually frustrated junior. "Middlebury needs a forum to date and reach out to each other besides the Bunker or Midd Confessional. We don't overlap much or communicate across social groups." I'm sure that over the weekend, a few of us stumbled home with a stranger (or a friend) and made the "walk of shame" in the icy bright morning. Let's not kid ourselves anymore. Acknowledge yourself as human — armed with both instinct and logic. We all want to cum, so let's pursue pleasure with perspective on what actually pleases us.

Survivor's will to recover moves mountains

Paralyzed Middlebury alum prepares to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

By Logan Brown
STAFF WRITER

While watching Winter Carnival ski races, it is easy to be awestruck by just how fast athletes in their tight spandex suits fly between those blue and red gates. If you blink, you might just miss the Middlebury ski team's blurry visages in navy blue. Although such speed has made Middlebury a top competitor in Division I skiing, such speed does not come without cost.

Every year 11,000 people suffer from spinal cord injuries. Eight percent of those injuries are caused by sport and recreational activities, according to the Mayo Clinic. Football, rugby, wrestling, gymnastics, diving, surfing, ice hockey and downhill skiing have all been known to put athletes at risk for serious injury. Many people have read the story of Kelly Brush's '08 tragic skiing accident and inspiring recovery, but few have heard Chris Waddell's '91 similar story of paralysis. Both intense athletes all their lives, these two students came to Middlebury with intentions of being impact alpine skiers on Middlebury's team. Despite their accidents, they did have huge impacts on the ski team and the entire Middlebury community at large. Waddell continues to impact the larger disabled community as he makes preparations to attempt to summit Mount Kilimanjaro.

In 1988, Waddell — then a sophomore — was warming up for a day of training when his ski popped off prematurely. This accident sent him into the trees. He came out with crushed vertebrae, a severed spinal cord and the harsh reality of never being able to walk again. However, within two months of his accident, he was back at Middlebury. Today, when he talks about his decision to return so quickly to school, Waddell sounds surprised that he was able to make such a quick turnaround. After his injury he lost close to 50 pounds and most of his muscle; thus, getting around campus be-

came very difficult.

"I had to look at campus in an entirely different way," he explained. "I would sit there in my room and map out where I wanted to go based on whether there were hills or stairs — at that point anything could stop me. Luckily, I had so many people supporting me it didn't matter where I wanted to go."

Although Waddell faced many new difficulties, he said returning to that supportive Middlebury community was one of the best decisions he ever made. His teammates, fraternity brothers, good friends on campus and (he jokes) "some of the most attractive females on campus" were all by his side when he needed it most.

The organization Friends of Middlebury Skiing and Bart Bradford, the Middlebury ski team coach at the time, were invaluable in getting Waddell skiing again. They provided him with a monoski, also referred to as a sit-ski, which would change his life indefinitely and allow him to remain an integral part of the team. Soon after his graduation, in which he skied down the Bowl in his monoski, Waddell went to join his new team, the United States Disabled Ski Team, in his first Paralympics Games. He also attended three Summer Games in which he raced his wheelchair. He went on to race his monoski in four more winter games, and came out of those experiences with 12 medals to show for his success.

When asked what moment sticks out most to him from his time on the disabled team, Waddell said it was winning the downhill in Norway. There are three classes of monoskiers based on levels of lesion. Waddell was in the category of skiers with the highest level of paraplegia. Early on in his career, he said he wanted to be the fastest monoskier in the world. However, because of his extreme level of paraplegia compared to other classes of monoskiers, many people doubted Wad-

dell. At the time that he made his bold statement, he finished races about 10 seconds behind those other classes of monoskiers. In that downhill race in Norway, he beat all three classes of monoskiers.

"In the fastest race I was the fastest guy," said Waddell. "That was a highlight especially because no one thought I could do it. That is what this is all about — making the impossible, possible."

Despite that fact that his career on the disabled ski team has now come to an end, Waddell continues his quest to "make the impossible possible." This summer Waddell will be the first paraplegic to attempt to summit the 19,340 foot high Mount Kilimanjaro. Waddell and the many people working to help make this journey possible have modified a four-wheeled hand bike in order to increase traction significantly and make the bike as light as possible. They have named the device "Bomba" which roughly translates from Tanzanian as "cooler than cool."

The device has lived up to its name well. Before the modifications to the bike, Waddell was breathing hard and sweating profusely while trekking up mountains with his friends who could walk and talk casually beside him without breaking a sweat. He explained that, with his new device, sometimes his friends have to run to keep up with him. Also the device is so sturdy that Waddell does not have to worry about tipping over on his bike. Such technological progress has allowed Waddell an incredible degree of independence and an even bigger opportunity to help the disabled in the future.

Waddell's organization, One Revolution (www.onerevolution.com), plans to donate 1,000 wheelchairs and hand cycles to developing countries like Tanzania in 2009. A documentary about Waddell's summit adventure is also in the works. Waddell expresses great

interest in telling his story well and making it reach as far as possible. He believes that the film could force people to revisit some of their assumptions about the disabled community. He says the film is about "filling the void with a picture." He explained that it is easy to see the limitations of humans, especially disabled ones, but he also believes that "one of the coolest parts of being human is our ability to adapt."

"We need that visual picture that says, 'this is the possibility, this is a picture of success,'" said Waddell.

After the anticipated summit, Waddell hopes to return to Middlebury and present his documentary to the community that was so influential in his return to athletics and the Winter Carnival slopes.



Courtesy Chris Waddell '91 uses the "Bomba" bike as he trains to make the summit of a lifetime.

From the Kitchen of: Sasha Swerdloff

As you become more comfortable cooking and seek out more complicated recipes, it can be difficult to find the equipment you need. Many recipes call for a blender or Cuisinart. These items are costly and you may not want to invest in them while at college. Your Commons may be able to loan you one. If not, check with Weybridge House.

Snow still covers the ground, but the sun is shining. This is a perfect soup to help you transition from winter to spring. The carrots are refreshing and bright and the ginger and curry add spice and heat. The soup is simultaneously light and invigorating.

I suggest using Lewis Creek Farms' carrots. Lewis Creek Farm, located in Starksboro, Vt. is owned by Hank Bissell and has been in operation since 1981. The farm practices ecologically friendly, sustainable agriculture. Garnish this soup with Vermont Butter and Cheese Company's crème fraiche. Vermont Butter and Cheese Company makes a variety of soft goat and cow milk cheeses in Websterville, Vt. The company has grown considerably since Allison Hooper and Bob Reese began making cheese in a small barn near their house. The company now operates a 4,000 -sq. ft. creamery and works with 21 family farms.

Carrot Ginger Soup

Serves 6

Total preparation time: 1 hour

Equipment:
Large soup pot
Blender or Cuisinart

Ingredients:
6 tablespoons butter
1 yellow onion
¼ cup fresh ginger
3 cloves garlic
7 cups chicken or vegetable stock
1 ½ pounds carrots, diced
2 tablespoons lemon juice
½ cup milk
salt
pepper
curry powder
6 tablespoons crème fraiche

Chop the onion, ginger, and garlic and sauté in the butter in a large soup pot over medium heat until soft and transparent. Season with salt and curry powder. Add the stock and bring to a boil. Add the diced carrots and cook until tender. Remove from heat, add the lemon juice, and let cool to room temperature. Puree in blender or Cuisinart until smooth and creamy. Return to pot and stir in milk. Season with salt and pepper and garnish with a dollop of crème fraiche.



winners&losers

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture?
The Campus gives its weekly report.



&



fmylife.com

Reading about everyone else's compromising moments makes you feel so much better about your own.

Facebook photos

Sunday's "recently tagged" leave you with nothing to say but "FML."

Winter Carnival dresses

Even the snow couldn't keep attendees from shakin' it to DJ Milkman's spinnings in short skirts, bright colors and fun patterns.

Red Carpet fashions

Long hemlines and demure colors left the Oscars' crowd longing for the days of J.Lo's plunging neckline.

No class

All those who spent Friday recovering from Orange Crush say "Ei"-leen.

Classiness

Long gone are the days of "Winter Carnival Ball" implying ballroom-appropriate attire and behavior.

Skaters heat it up and melt it down

By Sarah Harris
STAFF WRITER

Twice this weekend, Kenyon Arena was filled with excitement and eager anticipation for the annual Winter Carnival Ice Show. Expectant youngsters, flower-clutching parents and a slew of college students lined up to see this year's show, "Fire and Ice." Showcasing the talents of skaters of all ages hailing from the College, from town and even from the Olympic Center at Lake Placid, "Fire and Ice" boasted a diverse array of 22 performances, each in keeping with this year's carnival theme, "Heat it up to melt it down."

I caught up with 11 year-old skater Lejla Mahmuljan and 12-year olds Shiloh Solomon and Zaidie Barnard-Mayers before they went out on the ice. The girls are students at Mary Hogan Elementary School and Middlebury Union Middle School, respectively, and have been practicing for the ice show three times a week since November.

Solomon cited "gliding on the ice and feeling free" as the reason for her dedication to the sport and excitement about her upcoming performance.

Mahmuljan had other advice to offer as-

piring skaters. "It's really fun — if you want to skate and you don't think you can, you should just put your mind to it," she said.

Barnard-Mayers, for her part, extended an invitation to her male peers. "We should have more boys because there are only two or three that are in the program," she said. "All guys want to wear tights at some point in their life, right?"

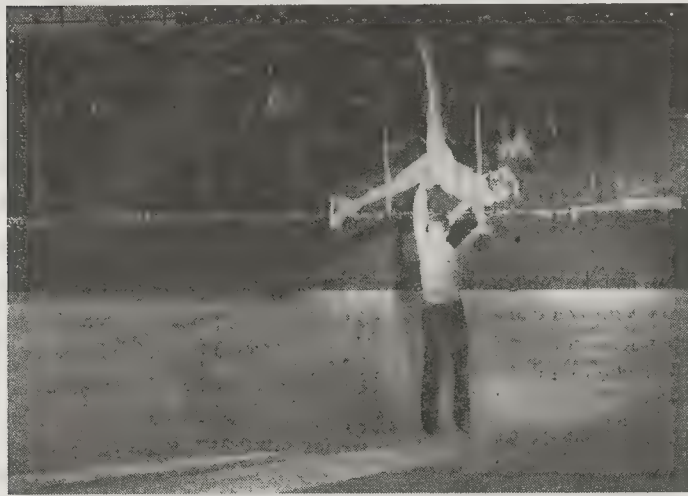
The show opened with skaters clad in yellow, red, blue and purple t-shirts skating enthusiastically to Katy Perry's smash hit "Hot 'N' Cold." The participants boasted a wide range of ages and skill levels, yet it was clear, as they joined hands and made their way around the rink, that all were enthused about the upcoming performance.

The show's most impressive display, rife with triple salchows and double lutzes, came courtesy of guest skater Kendall Whyckoff. Whyckoff, 16, is a native of Pantton, Vt., but moved to Lake Placid in 2007 in order to train at the Olympic Center. She is currently ranked 27th in the United States and placed fifth in Junior Ladies at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January.

Describing her attraction to skating, Whyckoff noted that she liked "the flying sensation. Also, it's probably the easiest sport to go fast in."

Middlebury students Sara Blaise Huddleston '09, Kelly Slentz '11, Hilary McReynolds '11, Chi Zhang '09 and Garret Reynolds '09 also lent their talents to the show.

"I've been coaching kids for a long time and I wanted to continue," said McReynolds of her decision to continue skating at Middlebury.



Photos, Ali Urban

Middlebury's annual ice show drew talented skaters and excited fans.



Slentz cited a similar motivation. "I give private lessons once a week to 8- and 11-year-olds," she said. "I hope that the little girls are really inspired by my skating."

Both Slentz and McReynolds began skating in childhood. "I've been skating practically since I could walk," said McReynolds. "I started skating because my father took me out to the rink to family skate to go around in circles." McReynolds quipped that she was particularly excited for the day's performance because she really liked her dress.

One of the show's more notable numbers, called "Figure Eight," incorporated young skaters and their parents — clad in matching ensembles — doing "twist" style moves. "Fire-hall Dance," in which six miniature firefighters wielding buckets were joined by four even more miniature dalmations to a bluegrass tune, was another crowd favorite.

Skating Coach Chenoa Hamilton summed up the performance nicely. "I think the kids are doing a great job and they should all be really proud of themselves," said Hamilton.

Hot Fashions from a Cool Ball

Photos by Grace Duggan
Photo Editor



Busiest Person on Campus

by Eric Bartolotti

Disclaimer:

I've seen this generalization floating around for awhile now: Middlebury students are busy. And it's definitely true. But who's the busiest? It could be anyone, anywhere. The quest to track him or her down would be so grueling — sifting through endless "orgo" classes, thesis carrels and midnight play rehearsals — that by the end I would become the busiest myself. But this article isn't for me. It's for the busiest person at Middlebury. Not that he/she will ever have time to read this.

Before beginning this quest, a paradox froze me: how can I interview somebody who — in theory — has no time to spare? Maybe ambush them in the fitness center? No, they're reading Shakespeare on the bike. Maybe catch them during their dance workshop? No, they're listening to the *New York Times* podcast. Maybe do an interview over lunch at Proctor? No, they don't eat, and besides, Proctor's still dead. These might sound like exaggerations, but they're definitely not. (Okay, Proctor isn't really dead, it's just in a coma).

To defrost the paradox, I modified my goal. Instead of tracking down the busiest person at Middlebury, I will be tracking down "The Busiest Person at Middlebury who Still Has Time to Talk with Me in a 15-Minute Interview." It is not an elegant title, but busy schedules have no room for elegance. This is not a one-article quest. So if you think you meet the criteria, contact me with your

story. Of course, if you are the actual, true, 100-percent busiest person at Middlebury, who has no time to talk with me in a 15-minute interview because you're reading this article while attending a "Learn to Juggle" workshop and writing out stage directions for your theatre-700 project and showing down a Clif Bar at the same time, then consider yourself above my dynamic quest. And consider dropping the juggling workshop.

Profile of Sophie Morse '11



Courtesy

Burdens:

Academic: Bollywood class, finding classes for spring term, Middlebury Study Abroad Application, Non-Middlebury Program Study Abroad Application.

Activity: ESL Workshop, translating AIDS Awareness story, organizing MALT Trip to El Salvador, fundraising \$6,000 for trip, work at language tables, work at Wonnacott office.

Athletic: Yoga Workshop, Salsa Workshop, Riddim Workshop.

Anything Else: designing Safe Sexuality Workshop for the Center for Health and Wellness.

Blessings: Supportive parents, supportive professors, sweet class schedule.

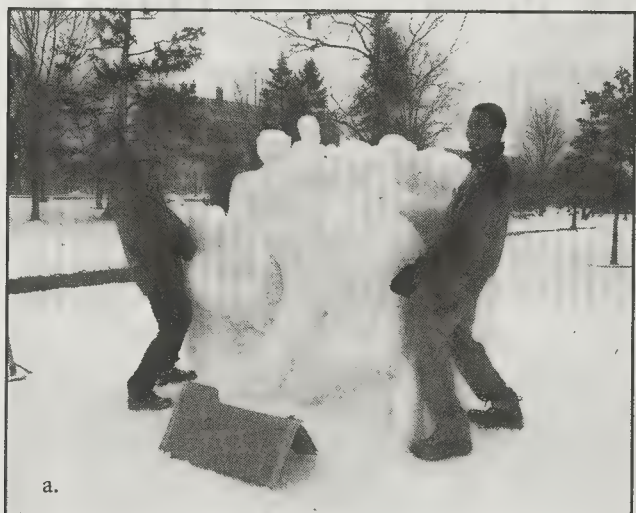
Sacrifices: "Yay" Term Social Scene, skiing, time with boyfriend, napping.

Our first candidate, Sophie Morse, provides a curious case. First, she was busy during J-Term, which is not allowed. Second, most of her "business points" (BP) come from something that many of us have never done: organizing a Middlebury ALternative-break-trip (MALT). I attended this fantastic trip myself, but never considered how much background work my leader had to go through before we left: contacting the community, constructing the itinerary, collecting personal information, crafting the health insurance plan, calling the organizations, calling the group members that showed up late for meetings, creating the fundraising ideas and carrying out the fundraising ideas. \$6,000 worth of fundraising ideas, to be precise.

Sophie's Winter Term "Bollywood" class also delivered the beatings. While the weekly lecture time was low (3 hours), the screening time was sky-high (more than 8 hours). Each film required its own response paper (2-3 pages) and each week demanded its own formal essay (5-7 pages). There was also a final project. There were also some readings. Sophie claims it was "doable," but "frustrating" at times. "Some of my friends took a class which had no homework and you didn't have to go to class," she said. "And the PowerPoints were online."

On the bright side, Sophie had regular meal and sleep schedules, in part due to her class's late meeting time. She also had respect for anyone studying Chinese, studying orgo or completing a thesis. She also had minimal guilt when she realized that it was impossible to attend many of her workshops. And she had something else, something that kept her from going crazy and kept her clean.

"I have laundry service," she said. "Thank God. It saved my life."



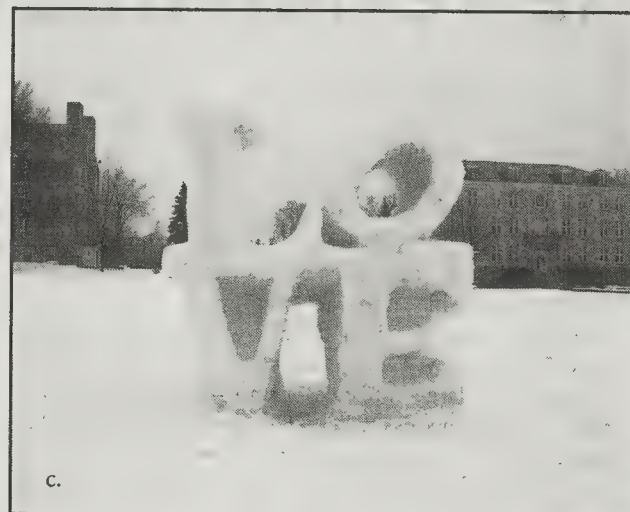
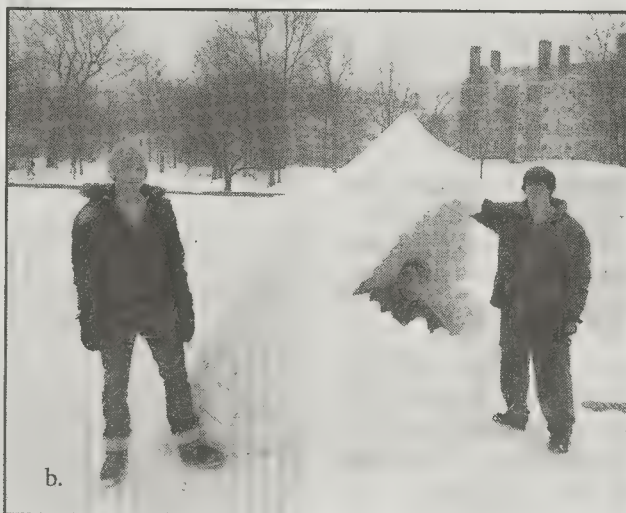
ARTICLE BY
Jamie Studwell

SNOW SCULPTURE COMPETITION 2009

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
RODRIGO SEIRA (a-c)

+

MOLLY DWYER (d-f)



This weekend, giant blocks of solid winter fell prey to the creative instincts of Middlebury students in the Snow Sculpting Contest. The results? Some very creative, detailed pieces and some piles of mangled snow.

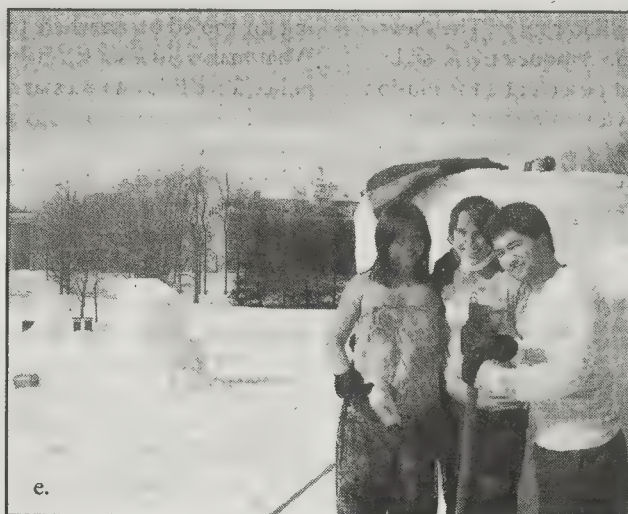
1st place: "Sketch-Cullough" (photo a.) As we walked past the snow sculptures this weekend my mom, who was visiting, said to me, "Wow, that one is really beautiful." She then whispered awkwardly, "but it looks a bit like an orgy!" She was referring to the work of Alex Benepe '09 & co., whose snow block depicts a "Sketch-Cullough" dance through overlapping snow bodies on the four sides of their snow block. The resemblance to an actual McCullough Social Space Saturday dance was uncanny to students, though Benepe said that a parent walking by was able to pass it off as a "group hug" to her inquisitive kid. Benepe said that the piece was in homage to the grand reopening of the McCullough Social Space.

2nd place: "The Shark." (b.) The self-titled Team Christine and the BIN Boys wanted to do something that would pop out, so they created a giant shark head coming out of the snow. It had a remarkable amount of detail in the curves of its head, the flaring nostrils, gills and two rows of teeth as big as my hand. The major carving was done earlier on, but on the final day the boys could be found using an iPhone to look up pictures of sharks to get the details right. Though reminiscent of last year's wolf head, this sculpture impressively made the impact the sculptors wanted. Viewed from the side, "The Shark" struck a menacing pose — until an adorable little girl climbed in through the back and started playing inside the shark's cavernous mouth.

3rd place: "Love." (c.) This year, Andrew Waxman '10, Ekow Edzie '10 and Byron Roth '10 created a snow replica of the red "LOVE" statue that stands outside the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts. Though not very original, it was well executed, its precision denoting an impressive three days of time and effort.

Toad's "DeathTrip" deserves honorable mention for the sculptors' creative use of food coloring. This snow slide and accompanying stairs were dyed an array of colors, making it stand out garishly against the other sculptures. Carved into it were the words "Psychedelic" and "Toad's DeathTrip."

The rest of the pieces were left unfinished (or undecipherable), but some showed promise that they could have been interesting if completed. The Chatty Cathys began work on a house with a hollow tunnel going through it, but left it looking like a cartoon doghouse. A team including Jane Yoon '10 began work on a snow castle and Mario Ariza '09, of last year's wolf head, partially created a whale. Alex Consalvo '09, who replaced a last-minute dropout on the VACA team, carved semi-circles into his block and although something was obviously started, it was unclear what the team intended their sculpture to be.



editors'
picks

26 Sound
Investment
McCullough
7 p.m.

This Thursday night, not only do you get to hear the college jazz band under the deft direction of Dick Forman, you also get free dance lessons!

27 Susanne Peck
MCFA Concert
Hall
8 p.m.

Soprano Susanne Peck will perform a selection of songs by Handel, Faure, Poulenc, Richard Strauss, Mahler, Barber, Bolcom and more.

Paranoid Park
Dana Auditorium
3 and 8 p.m.

Under the helm of Gus Van Sant, this film confronts the nature of guilt and conscience in the superficially subversive world of teenage skateboarding.

28 28 Pharoahe
Monch
Higher Ground,
South Burlington

Drive up Rt. 7 to hear some indie hip-hop. You may know Pharoahe Monch from the "Training Day" soundtrack and other obscure particles of past popular culture.

New exhibition provides a strip of Midd culture

By John Patrick Allen
STAFF WRITER

The inaugural exhibition in McCullough's Center Gallery is a welcome shock. "Drawing the Line, Then Crossing It," a selection of works by recent Middlebury graduate and former *Campus* cartoonist Sam Dakota Miller '08.5, electrifies the space, jolting the Center Gallery to life. The exhibit, which opened on Saturday, Feb. 21, consists of a combination of large "finished" prints and smaller less-polished sketches. The pieces are unframed, held to the wall by overlying panes of plexiglass.

All of the drawings are declarative in both form and content. Most of the prints are in black and white ink, with the occasional burn of red or orange. At times, pen is combined with watercolor, giving the pictures a blotched, slightly dirty appearance. One piece, a black-and-white ink drawing with gray watercolor, depicts a young man painting the words "EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON" in massive all-caps on a white wall. Two old men and an old woman look on, laughing at the boy's effort. In another, a hunched man, looking sideways with suspicion at the viewer, pulls a long coat or blanket tighter around his shoulders. On the blanket is written, again in huge block print, "WE ARE ALL ONE" ... or perhaps, "WE ARE ALONE."

Most of Miller's pictures are equally funny and dark. Perhaps the funniest is a tiny sketch depicting a figure, standing among trees, facing a full-length mirror. The caption reads, "How to be Alone by Yourself." This drawing, with its simple, scribbled detail, is a perfect example of Miller's wit and ability to focus narrowly on a topic.

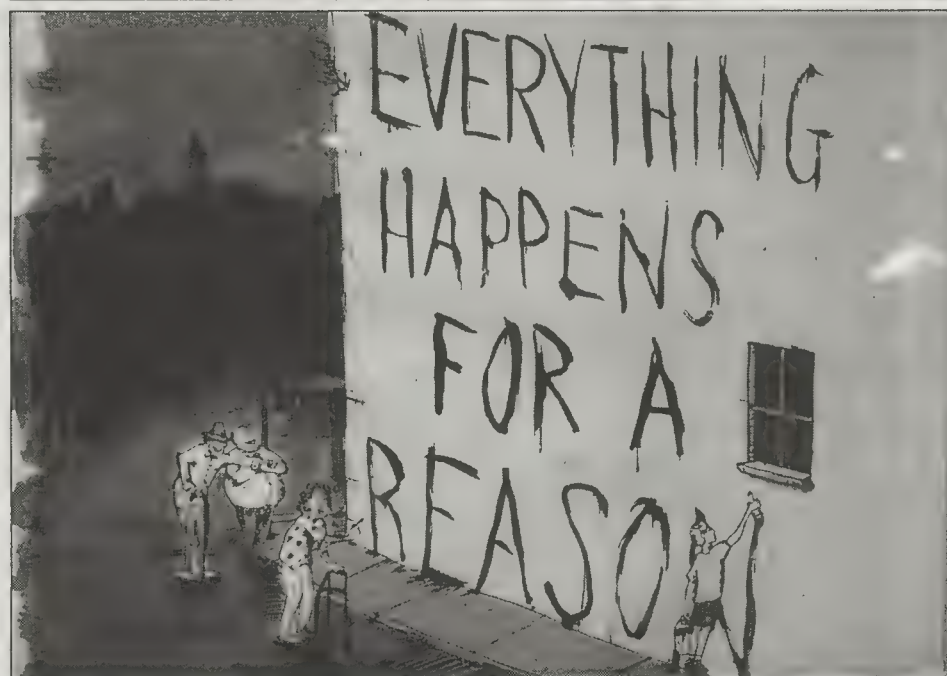
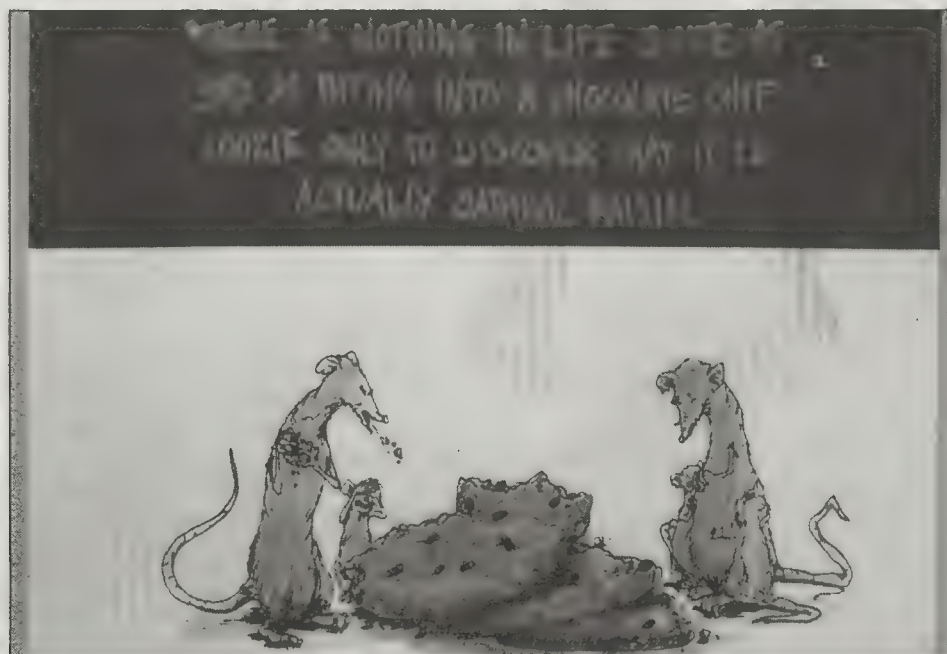
One of Miller's most interesting prints depicts five Middlebury students seated in a row of desks facing the viewer. The student on the far left observes the three in the middle and judges them in a bold red thought

bubble: "Fags..." The student on the far right also mentally categorizes the middle three: "Jocks..." Each pole schematizes (and denigrates) the center, while failing to notice the homogeneity of the entire row. The figures of the seated students are drawn in the same black pen as their desks, whose horizontal and vertical bars show through their transparent bodies. The subtle wit of this drawing ("cartoon" sounds too sweet) hints at the combination of transparency and confusion brought about by the application of labels of any kind.

Before this year's renovation of McCullough, it was hard to imagine the vestibule between the Grille and the Social Space as worthy of the name "gallery." Student work did hang on the walls, but the space did not draw more than a passing glance. The responsibility for reviving the gallery devolved upon Graduate Intern Elysian McNiff '08, another recent graduate who now works as the curator of the Center Gallery and the Old Stone Mill. McNiff's decision to open the gallery with Miller's sketches and prints was a bold and sound one.

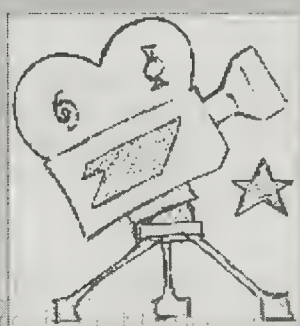
It is remarkable that space in the Center Gallery has been given to the incisive work of an artist who describes himself (in his official artist's statement) as an "arrogant and self-assured cynic" for whom "Middlebury College has been like a McDonald's playpen." Tours of prospective students not only walk through the space, they *stop* there. As the tour guide carefully avoids calling the Social Space "Sketchcullough," the fuzzy, prickly electricity of Miller's art will hover in the background. Maybe a prospe or two among the horde will feel it, and smile.

"Drawing the Line, Then Crossing It" will be on display in the Center Gallery until the first week of April. For more information regarding the exhibition, please contact curator Elysian McNiff at emcniff@middlebury.edu



Grace Duggan, Photo Editor

Miller's work presented a cultural commentary that was both biting and humorous.



THE REEL CRITIC

by Josh Wessler

MOVIE | *Slumdog Millionaire*
DIRECTOR | Danny Boyle
STARRING | Dev Patel, Freida Pinto and Madhur Mittal

"Slumdog Millionaire" is a tricky movie to talk about. It has attracted global controversy regarding its child actors, it depicts graphic and upsetting material and it seems anathema to the aesthetic preferences of the major award ceremonies. Nonetheless, its widespread success at awards ceremonies, capped by its triumph last Sunday, indicates the extent to which it resonates with audiences. The Oscar victories imply that globalization has finally reached the old-school film establishment.

The film is consciously global — the director and some of the lead actors reside in the U.K., while the youngest supporting cast members hail from the eponymous slums. To add to its recondite materials, the film's recurring anthem is the theme song of the TV show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." The film centers around an episode of a Mumbai-based version of "Millionaire," in which contestants answer multiple-choice questions in the hopes

of winning 250 million rupees. The show serves to extend the critique of U.S.-style entertainment that perpetuates the illusion of quick fortune with little effort. Yet it also critiques those who criticize the show — after all, every opportunity to get rich quick is ostensibly a democratic opportunity. In other words, "Slumdog Millionaire" suggests that money can, in fact, heal old wounds, even those as deep as abject poverty. It may not be pretty, and it may smell foul as hell, but at least you can hope for something better.

In the hot seat of the "Millionaire" studios sits Jamal (Dev Patel), a twenty-something boy born in the slums of the most populated city in India. He is being tortured for his success on the television game show: someone accused him of cheating. After all, as a slum-dweller, those in power expect him to be ignorant. In order to save his life, or at least his primary bodily functions, Jamal is forced to explain to the police how he answered each question. Conveniently, each question corresponds with an episode from his life — and proceeds roughly in chronological order. As a result, he patches together his remarkable life for our viewing pleasure while saving his own skin. In short, the plot is a bit implausible. It seems more like "Crash" (2004) in that it sprinkles the viewer with demonstrative anecdotes that conspire to reach a transcendent climax — in fact, because "Crash" and "Slumdog" each won best picture at the Oscars, it seems that audiences value a film's message more than its narrative coherence. Still, "Slumdog" is not merely a pity vote — as was "Crash" for its supposedly audacious racial politics — it's also a strikingly emotional film.

We first experience Jamal's boyhood home in a rousing chase scene leading from a nearby airport — where his friends play ball on dusty runways — through the mountains of refuse that border the sprawl-

ing tin-roofed ocean where they reside. What makes little sense is why the airport police force finds it necessary to chase the boys through the hazardous slum landscape only to give up as soon as Jamal and his older brother, Salim, reach the warm embrace of their mother. Juxtaposed with the following scene, in which the police watch idly as a mob decimates the Muslim neighborhood, the message is clear: Nonetheless, the images are so explicitly juxtaposed that there is little room to engage with the material. Jamal's and Salim's mother dies in this initial attack. With hardly a flick of the eye, Jamal and Salim slip into an orphan's existence, allowing them to escape the city.

The film begins to thicken around the relationships of Jamal, Salim and Latika, a local orphan whom they find in the rain the evening of the mob attack. Jamal and Salim share a tense relationship — when Jamal invites Latika inside to escape the rain against Salim's wishes, Salim silently registers a festering grudge. Eventually, the threesome flees the slums due to the goodwill of an outlying orphanage.

Throughout the film, the intensity of the setting, the colors and the music create emotional landscapes that contradict at times the plot or dialogue. At the orphanage, the residing sense of doom still emanates from the introductory chapter in the slums. As a result, the jokes do not seem as funny and the sweeter moments often leave a bitter impression. The discomfort from these contradictions propel the film along its careening path — the whirlwind pace merely increases as the characters' relationships become more tangled.

At one point, back in the present, Jamal's interrogator informs him that his story is "bizarrely plausible." Indeed, the filmmakers hope we will think the same thing.

Although the first half of the film is rather poorly framed, the film's water-

shed moment nearly erases any lasting uneasiness. Jamal, now nearing twenty and separated from his brother, returns to his home city in order to find Latika, who disappeared before he could confess his love for her. As Jamal puts it, when he returns, "Bombay had turned into Mumbai" — the notorious slums of the 1990s had become the fast-paced, cosmopolitan city of the new millennium. Where he once combed through human waste in order to stay alive, he now peered up at new high-rise developments. Inspired by his quest for love and emboldened by his life experiences traveling throughout India, Jamal applies to compete on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" The show synthesizes his life into a window of a few minutes, when he has the opportunity to either answer a question or walk away with a large sum of money — the stakes increase with each correct answer. In spite of this contrivance, the force of director Danny Boyle's narration — exhibited famously in "Trainspotting" (1996) — reins together the disparate strands of the film and delivers the unforgettable images that punctuate the story. For better or for worse, this film will define many people's views of Mumbai for years.

It seems strange to say that in spite of the movie's deficiencies it rang an emotional chord, but it is a testament to changing winds within the movie industry. The film's lines of production and human capital span an incredible number of regional, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Is the movie Indian, British, big-studio, small-budget (is \$25 million small?), racist, imperialist, offensive, honest, naïve, ignorant or well-informed? I have no idea. But I'm glad that we're here talking about it.

"Slumdog Millionaire" is now playing in town at the Marquis Theatre.



for the record

by Alex Blair

The 51st annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held on Feb. 8 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles and, as usual, there was plenty to talk about — between a great performance by Radiohead, Blink-182's momentous reunion and M.I.A. nearly giving birth on stage (she was over eight months pregnant at the time), the night was packed full of interesting moments. For many people, album of the year — the show's final and most prestigious award — garnered the most surprise. Always a controversial category, the 2009 version proved no exception.

This year's nominees were (drum roll please) "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" by Coldplay, "Tha Carter III" by Lil Wayne, "Year of the Gentleman" by Ne-Yo, "Raising Sand" by Robert Plant and Alison Krauss and "In Rainbows" by Radiohead. The winner, to the chagrin of many, was "Raising Sand." Why was there such hostility toward this album? The answer is simple: most people haven't heard this wonderful collection of country-tinged folk songs. That said, "Raising Sand," along with "In Rainbows," didn't belong in the album of the year category. In fact, they didn't belong in this year's Grammys at all. Both were released in October 2007, so they should have been honored at the 2008 ceremony. But the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has the inane policy that all albums released after September 30 cannot be nominated until the following year. That doesn't make much sense. Although "Raising Sand" and "In Rainbows" are both excellent, they should not have been considered for the best album of 2008. That leaves the "Year of the Gentleman," "Viva La Vida," and "Tha Carter III."

Ne-Yo's "Year of the Gentleman" is a good R&B album, but that's about all it is. It's not even the best R&B album of 2008. That distinction goes to Kanye West's "808s & Heartbreak" (yes, 50 Cent was correct in deeming it an R&B record). But "808s" was released in November, meaning it can't be nominated for a Grammy until about the year 2019. Highly unoriginal, "Year of the Gentleman" copies the same formula of Ne-Yo's two previous albums and, song-for-song, it's the weakest of this year's nominees. While tracks like "Closer" and "Why Does She Stay" are memorable, "Year of the Gentleman" lacks the consistency needed to leave a lasting impression.

"Viva La Vida" is Coldplay's best album. Fans of "A Rush of Blood to the Head" will be in an uproar over that statement, but unlike that album, "Viva La Vida" doesn't put me to sleep. Brian Eno's sonic production brings much needed energy and liveliness to Coldplay's songs. The upbeat "Lovers in Japan/Reign of Love" and the title track, which deservedly won the Grammy for song of the year, are two highlights. "Viva La Vida" is one of 2008's best albums, and if Coldplay decided to include the tracks "Life in Technicolor II" and "Glass of Water" from their "Prospekt's March" EP (one of the year's best extended plays), it might have taken home the hardware.

The distinction for most original album of 2008 went to "Tha Carter III." No rap artist has ever made a song like "Dr. Carter" in which Weezy literally resuscitates the nearly dead hip-hop industry. The album also includes the number-one hit "Lollipop" and the E.T.-inspired "Phone Home," the latter including some of the best raps of '08 ("I'm rare/Like Mr. Clean with hair.") Years from now, "Tha Carter III" will be considered a classic not just in the rap genre, but in all music circles.

So if "Raising Sand" and "In Rainbows" did not receive nominations, what should have been named album of the year? That's easy: Vampire Weekend's eponymous debut. But of course that wasn't nominated; so the answer is "Tha Carter III." Song for song, none of the other nominees can match Weezy's output. He is — as he modestly declares on "Let the Beat Build" — "the best rapper alive."



Spotlight on... Andreana Gustafson '09

A German major with an Italian minor, it is no surprise that Andreana Gustafson '09 decided to put on a play about the power of words. The senior from Fargo, N.D. — whose previous credits include Assistant Director for both "Cabaret"

and "Baltimore Waltz" — moves into the director's chair for her production of the 1999 Pulitzer-Prize winning "Wit."

The Middlebury Campus: Why did you decide to put on "Wit" — a screenplay with comparatively expensive rights?

Andreana Gustafson: With every show the rights run about \$75. "Wit" was introduced to me by Lizzie Gordon '09 a couple years ago, and I sat down to read it because I was looking for an audition monologue with a very strong female role. I was actually incredibly moved just by reading it, and I usually need a visual to register that sort of emotional impact. It's incredibly interesting the way it combines art and science. People use the term "ivory tower" usually when talking humanities, but it's the same for science. It's very strange to hear what scientists say about the humanities and vice versa. They're both in ivory towers that are just constructed differently.

TC: Was this choice influenced by the increased popularity of playwright Tom Stoppard's more deductive works, or even the recent Middlebury production, "Leap"?

AG: No, not at all. I think this play is very different from Tom Stoppard, and I actually didn't see "Jumpers" when it went up last year. I find it a very singular play. The art and science tension is not even the main theme. The essential theme, I find, is life and death, seen both philosophically and realistically. It deals with some pretty heavy things, but it's also very amusing at times. She has a very dry sense of humor.

TC: Sorry to bring it back to finances, but the economy is a hot topic right now. Are you getting any help from the theatre de-

partment or outside sources?

AG: Since it's an independent project, we're funded by The Zoo itself. The theatre department, of course, has been very helpful in lending props. The reason there are no complimentary tickets is because budgets are tightening everywhere; it's not a like or dislike thing.

TC: The play's subject matter is a bit complex — Donne is not the easiest material to swallow, even for English majors. What aspects of the play do you think will resonate with audiences, especially those without a literary background?

AG: I think it will resonate with a lot of people. The protagonist is a professor and she has no qualms about discussing the relevance of 17th century poems and what they mean to our contemporary lives. And he's not the only one quoted — Shakespeare makes appearances cited and not. But speaking of difficulty, "Wit" does not solely make poetic references. There's the scientific terminology that is difficult at first sight for those of a literary tradition. The play is a bit of an ode to words from all disciplines.

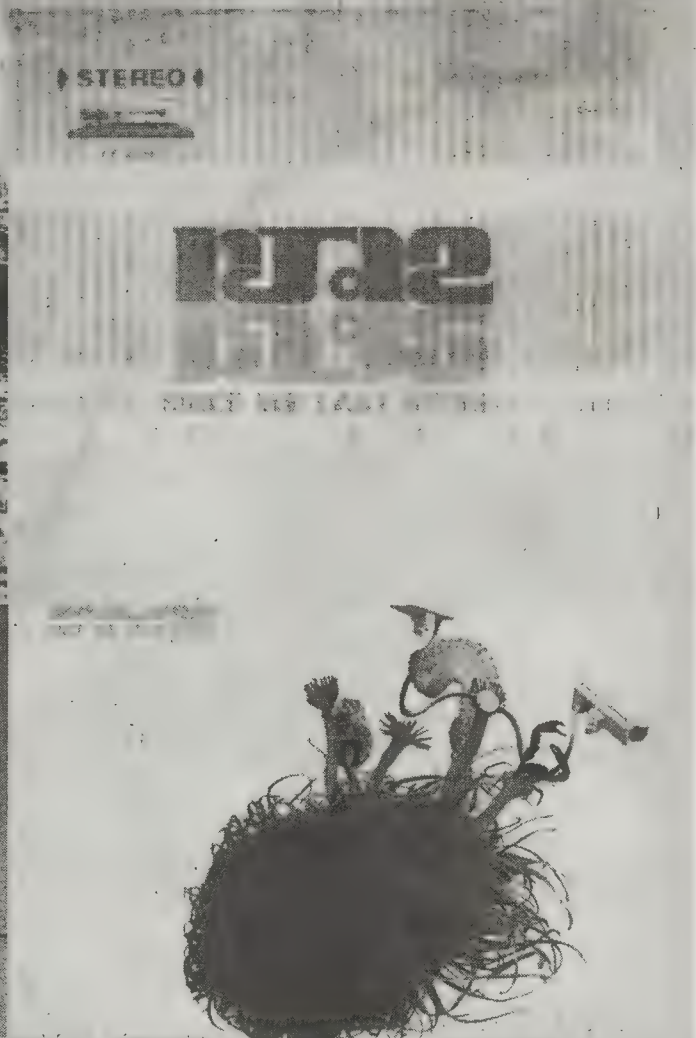
TC: So, an "ode to words." Do you have a favorite line from the play, then?

AG: It would be impossible to say. There are many great monologues, especially one where she knew that words would be her life's work. The thing about English is that we can have these scientific words that are heavily Greek and heavily Latin mixed in with these complex poetic words, like "coruscation" (which means a striking display of brilliance). Words have definite power over people in the play.

"Wit" will go up in The Hepburn Zoo on March 6 at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and March 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3.

— Melissa Marshall, Arts Editor

RJD2 Deadringer



Courtesy

MIXING UP MIDDLEBURY

Ramble Jon Krohn's cut-and-paste hip-hop style may have a metropolitan vibe, but the clever splicer got his start in the Midwest, first calling Oregon, and then Ohio, home. With his 2007 release "Third Hand," RJD2 placed himself into XL Recording's production rotation, moving his instrumental hip-hop from a sizeable underground following to serious industry credential. With RJD2 now a major figure in club and skateboarding culture, students shouldn't miss the \$5 ticket price when he plays the McCullough Social Space on Feb. 27. Doors open at 10:30 p.m. Go to www.myspace.com/rjd2 for track samples and more information.

Men's hockey splits games with Amherst and Hamilton

Team concludes regular season, will host Hamilton in quarterfinal matchup

By Peter Baumann
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Middlebury men's hockey team split its last two regular season games this past weekend, dropping the Friday night game to Amherst 4-3 before bouncing back to defeat Hamilton 5-2 on Saturday. With the win, the Panthers locked up the second seed for the NE-SCAC tournament and will host Hamilton on Saturday, Feb. 28 in a first-round contest.

The Panthers were dealt a tough hand on Friday, as Head Coach Bill Beaney was forced to miss both games over the weekend due to illness.

In Beaney's absence, Assistant Coach John Dawson '05 prepared to take over behind the bench — something that the team learned of only on Friday morning.

Possibly in some way due to the change in leadership, the Panthers allowed the Lord Jeffs to jump out to an early lead and found themselves down 4-0 after the first period.

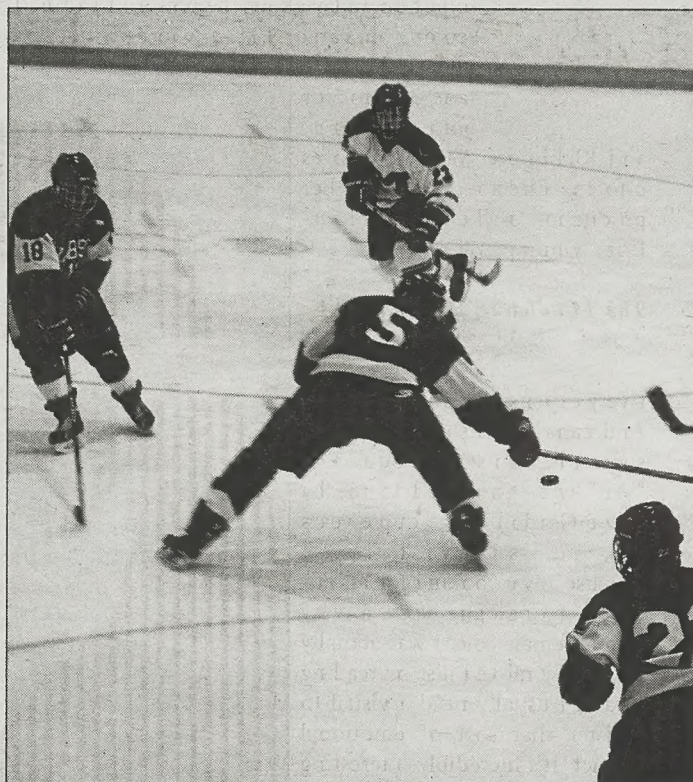
"They came out pretty sharp and capitalized on a couple of mistakes we made," said Dawson. "They are a good team and were able to pick up a couple of opportunistic goals early."

Despite the difference on the scoreboard, Middlebury actually out-shot Amherst in the first period by a margin of 20-11. While Dawson

cautioned that this metric is not always an apt indicator of the better team, he did believe it shows that the first period — and the game in general — was much closer than the score would indicate.

"We try not to pay too much attention to the shots," he said, "but we came out pretty prepared and we did control some of the play."

Over the course of the next two periods the Panthers did everything within their control to get back into the game. Doug Raeder '09, who had replaced John Yanchek '12 in net halfway through the first period, was spectacular as the last line of defense. The Panther offense continued to pepper the Amherst goal, finishing the evening with 57 shots on



File Photo
Martin Drolet '12 tallied a goal in the Panthers' victory over Hamilton.

net. Second period goals from Charles Nerbak '12 and Martin Drolet '12 and a third period tally from Mason Graddock '09 put the Panthers within striking distance, but the flurry of activity proved to be too little too late.

After starting slowly against Amherst, at least on the scoreboard, the Panthers were deter-

mined to not let the same thing undermine their effort against Hamilton.

"Coming back and getting a win on Saturday was important for our team to establish momentum going into the playoffs," said Bryan Curran '11, who scored two goals in the victory. "It was encouraging to see us take [a] strong team work ethic into Saturday's game and get a win against a physical Hamilton team."

Middlebury controlled the game from the outset, scoring four goals in the first period and one in the second to build a commanding 5-0 lead.

Perhaps most importantly, however, the Panthers continued to cut down on the number of odd-man rushes they gave up, something that has plagued the squad at times this year.

"The gap control by our backs was very good," said Dawson. "We were really pleased with that part of our game."

With the win, the Panthers locked up the second seed, forcing a rematch with the Continentals — this time on the Panthers' home ice. Kenyon Arena features an Olympic-sized ice sheet that should allow Middlebury to take advantage of their speed.

"Hamilton likes to play a pretty physical game," said Curran, "but we are confident that if we move our feet and stick to our game plan, we will have a lot of success."

Dawson agreed that speed through the neutral zone will be important for the Panther attack.

"It is going to be a tough challenge for us," he said. "Playing a team twice in a row is always difficult. We need to keep our speed but also win the battles down low as well."

It was encouraging to see us take [a] strong team work ethic into Saturday's game and get a win against a physical Hamilton team.

—Bryan Curran '11



Allie Needham
Matt Westman '09 towers over several Camel defenders beneath the basket for a reverse layup.

Individuals accrue high scores at MIT

By James Schwerdtman
STAFF WRITER

With the indoor track season winding down, some of the best Panthers were in competition at the Division III New England's this past weekend. The men traveled to MIT for the second weekend in a row — having competed last week in the MIT Invitational — while the women were in action at Bowdoin. Individual members of both teams qualified for the meet over the course of the season based on time and finish.

Although there were fewer Panthers at the meet than in past years, the total number of points scored was higher. "I would say first that we scored more points than last year," said captain Ben Fowler '09. "Although we didn't have as many guys competing, everybody that was there did really well."

Michael Schmidt '12 had a strong day, coming in sixth in the 5000-meter run at 15:29. Based on his time, Schmidt was named to the All-New England team. Adam Dede '12 also put together

an impressive performance, jumping 4.27 meters in the pole vault, although the number was a little bit disappointing to him.

"I would have liked to have gone a little higher," he said. "We have Open New England's next week, so I'm hoping to iron out things during practice this week and see everything come together."

John Montroy '12 was another underclassman that had a solid day, running the 55-meter hurdles in 8.29 seconds.

As has been the case all season, the relay teams were impressive at both MIT and Bowdoin. Addison Godine '11, Jason Mooty '12, Connor Wood '11 and Fowler placed fifth in the 4x400 meter relay at 3:29. Like Schmidt, the relay team also received All-New England honors. At Bowdoin, Julia Sisson '12, Rebecca Fanning '12, Grace Close '11 and Katy Magill '11 had another successful day, placing fifth in the 4x400 meter relay at 4:07. Magill also ran well in the 600-me-

Men's b-ball will play out NESCACs at home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

with a big play and seeing the crowd go crazy is incredible, there's nothing else like it."

A pair of free-throws by Matt Westman '09 established a game-high 27-point advantage for the home team with 12:55 remaining.

The Camels, though, were determined and they in fact made a game of it late in the second half. A 7-0 run by Conn. College shrunk the lead to 14 at the 7:08 mark, with Camel freshman Demetrius Porter almost singlehandedly willing his team back into the game.

The road team kept fighting, and a three pointer by Ulises Veras narrowed the gap to 11 points, the closest the Camels had been since the first half.

But that was as close as the Panthers would allow their opponent to come. Middlebury buckled down on both ends of the court and hit nine of 12 free throws down the stretch to ensure the victory.

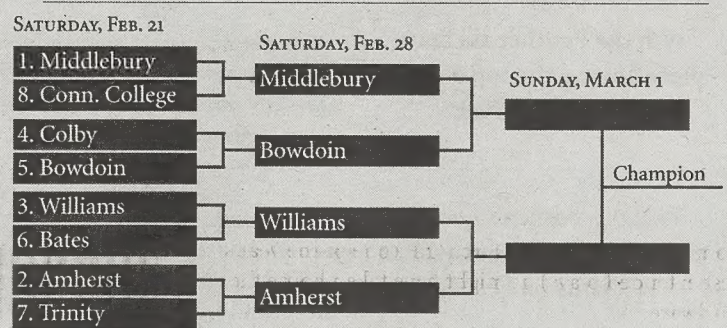
Rudin again proved indispensable, scoring 29 points on 10 of 21 shooting to go along with six rebounds and five assists. The senior point guard has now racked up the seventh-most points in school history with 1,143. Locke put in 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds to go along with his four blocks.

"We came out with a lot of intensity and energy," said Smith, reflecting on the win. "We played great team defense and executed on offense."

Now the Panthers prepare for Saturday's semifinal showdown against Bowdoin, which scored a minor upset on the road over Colby in its first-round contest. The Polar Bears are clearly no stranger to staging upsets, as they ousted number one seed and heavily favored Amherst in last year's semifinals of the NESCAC tournament.

But with the support of a diehard home crowd, which was nothing short of remarkable this past Saturday, Middlebury can't wait to get back out on the court and ensure that

NESCAC TOURNAMENT: MEN'S BASKETBALL

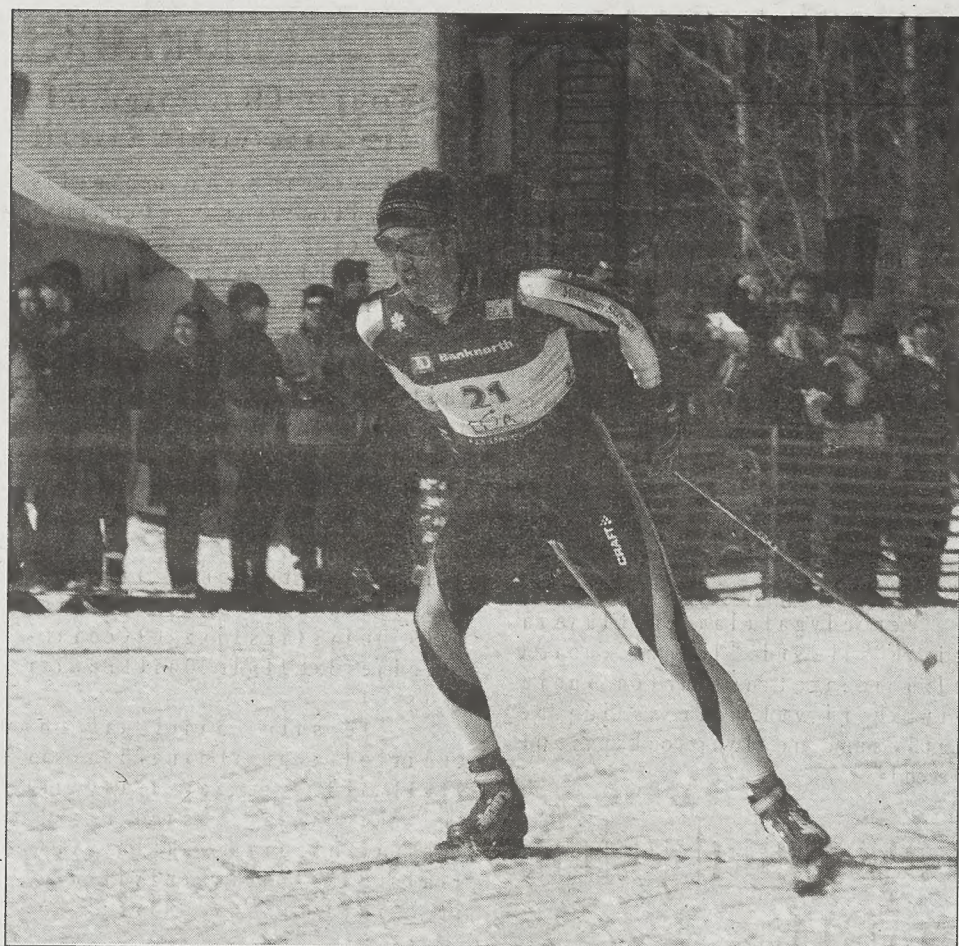


Note: Teams will be rebracketed based on quarterfinal results. Champion receives automatic bid to the D-III NCAA tournament.

Bowdoin does not duplicate last year's feat.

If victorious over the Polar Bears, the Panthers' quest for their first ever NESCAC championship would likely culminate with a rematch against Amherst, which handed Middlebury its only conference loss of the season two weekends ago. This time, however, the Lord Jeffs would have to win in front of a hostile Pepin crowd.

"We've worked so hard, in both the off-season and regular season, to get this home crowd advantage," said Smith. "We see it as a huge opportunity. We're excited, we're confident and we won't be satisfied with anything less than a championship."



Evan Masseau

The Middlebury men's nordic team was able to upset Dartmouth in the 5 km freestyle relay.

McLaughry '10 gets first in women's giant slalom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Brennan and Sophie Caldwell taking the top two spots. Robyn Anderson '10 was the lone Panther finisher in the top 10, as she came in seventh place. The Middlebury men's and women's nordic teams started the carnival in third and fifth places, respectively.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear for the second day of racing. At the Snow Bowl, the Panther alpine women had an excellent race in the giant slalom — Leah McLaughry '10 took top honors while Ford was third and Nicole Dvorak '11 was fifth. Just after the women's competition concluded for the day, McLaughry, a Vermont native, watched as her brother Luke finished 14th for Dartmouth in the men's giant slalom race.

The men's giant slalom saw some stiff competition as well as standout performances. Eric Mann of Williams scored his first individual win of the season, while Middlebury's Bobby Poehling '11 had a great race to finish fifth. Wagner proved his consistency, placing eighth. The stellar Panther women's results placed them first, while the men also improved to third place.

Back at Bread Loaf, the nordic events continued with a three-person 5 km freestyle relay race. The Panther men's team of Johnson, Hamilton and Tim Reynolds '09 displayed an impressive performance to upset Dartmouth and take the victory. Middlebury's second team of Graham Egan '11, Michael Mommsen '10 and rookie Chase Marston '12 also raced well, finishing ninth. On the women, it was the Dartmouth team that skied to victory, with Rosie Brennan, Ida Sargent and Sophie Caldwell comprising one of the toughest women's alpine teams in the country.

The Panther women — Kate Barton '09, Cassidy Edwards '09 and Robyn Anderson '10 — raced well, but ultimately finished in fourth. The team scores were based on the first relay team from each school, so the men placed first and the women were fourth. Next weekend, the racing continues with the EISA (Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association) championships hosted by Colby College. Dartmouth will try to remain undefeated, as the alpine teams race a slalom race on Saturday and a GS on Sunday. The nordic teams will be back in action with a 5/10km classic on Saturday.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD				
Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
2/21	Men's Basketball	Conn. College	78-62 W	Panthers feed off a raucous home crowd and demolish the Camels to punch a ticket to the NESCAC semifinals.
2/20 2/21	Women's Hockey	Wesleyan Hamilton	7-2 W 4-1 W	The women's hockey team now owns an all-time record of 37-0-2 over Wesleyan. That's seriously legit.
2/20 2/21	Men's Hockey	Amherst Hamilton	4-3 L 5-2 W	The men earn a split on their two-game roadtrip and will host Hamilton in a NESCAC quarterfinal game this Saturday.
2/20 2/21	Skiing, Winter Carnival	Dartmouth, UVM and UNH	3rd place	Panthers post some impressive individual performances at their 86th Winter Carnival.
2/20 2/21 2/22	Men's Squash	Denison Colby Bowdoin	7-2 W 7-2 W 5-4 W	The men end their season by winning their flight to nationals, earning them a 17th-place ranking in the nation.

BY THE NUMBERS	
1031	Attendance at the men's basketball team's quarterfinal game vs. Connecticut College.
29	Number of points scored by Ben Rudin '09 in that game, tying his career high.
7	Number of combined dunks (3) and blocked shots (4) for Andrew Locke '11 in the game.
1	Place earned by the men's 3 x 5k relay team at the Middlebury Winter Carnival.
6	Place earned by Michael Schmidt '12 in the 5000m run at MIT, earning him a place on the All New England team.

Editors' Picks



Questions	Jeff Klein	Kevin Carpenter	Emma Gardner	Katy Magill, Indoor Track
Will the Panther ski team place among the top 3 at the Colby Carnival?	NO Competing against powerhouses like Dartmouth, the Panthers will narrowly miss a second consecutive third-place finish.	YES Fact. Panthers eat mules. Panthers. Mules. Battlestar Galactica. (The Office, anyone?)	YES I'm counting on my fellow Hanover High alum Leah McLaughry to put up great results this weekend.	YES They were right up there with Dartmouth and UVM, and they've done really well all season.
Will the women's hockey team record a shutout against Williams on Feb. 28?	YES The Ephs are averaging the second-fewest goals per game in the NESCAC, while the Panthers allow the second fewest. You do the math.	NO Williams has scored one goal in two games against Middlebury. That makes .5 goals/game. I have to round that up ...	NO While I think they have what it takes to win, a shutout seems a little ... ambitious.	* YES Go defense!
Will Andrew Locke '11 have a dunk in the men's basketball NESCAC semifinal game against Bowdoin?	NO It won't matter though — he'll swat at least five shots and the Panthers will advance to the finals.	YES Andrew, my record is falling quickly. Bring the pain and dunk on kids. Do it for me.	YES OMG HE IS SO TALL!	YES Does he even need to jump?
Who will win in the Serie A Italian Soccer League matchup between Internazionale and AS Roma?	INTERNAZIONALE This is type of question where I eschew factual research and instead base my answer on the coolness of the team's name. Sorry, Emma.	INTERNAZIONALE I know Totti is a legend, but Roma is looking sub-par this year.	INTERNAZIONALE "Go with what we said." —Kevin Carpenter	AS ROMA Er, well, according to my extensive knowledge of European soccer, Roma has a better head-to-head record in their last seven meetings ...
Who will win in the Big East matchup between Marquette and Louisville on March 1?	MARQUETTE Jerel McNeal is having a monster season and will propel his team to victory in the midst of a brutal final stretch.	MARQUETTE It's a gut feeling. I don't need to explain myself.	MARQUETTE What Kevin means is he's too lazy to look up a legitimate reason. Welcome to my world.	MARQUETTE And I definitely didn't have to text my brother to get that answer ...
Career Record	54-67 (.446)	9-11 (.450)	24-35 (.407)	7-13 (.350)

Men's squash wins flight at nationals

By Kevin Carpenter

SPORTS EDITOR

The Middlebury men's squash team ends its season as triumphant winners of the C-division at team nationals. The Panthers' finish earned the squad a 17th-place finish at Princeton.

In just its second season as a varsity sport at Middlebury, the team has accrued a respectable 15-10 record and is becoming a force to be reckoned with among historically strong varsity programs.

"Finishing 17th marks a major improvement from last year and from other years past," said co-captain Jack Lysohir '08.5. "The highest we had ever finished was 24th (which is the rank of the last placed team in the C-division), so it felt good to actually win the whole division."

The Panther team entered the tournament seeded 20th and competed in the Summers Division (C) bracket. The squad asserted their dominance over #21 Denison in Friday's match with a 7-2 victory. After the win, the Panthers encountered some familiar foes from NESCAC play.

"We came into the tournament seeded below Colby, Hamilton and Bowdoin, despite having beaten two of those teams in the regular season," said Lysohir. "We knew at nationals it would be imperative for us to focus only on each individual match and not get too concerned with how the rest of the draw was playing out and the implications of other teams' wins and losses."

With unwavering focus, the Panthers took on a tough Colby team, ranked #17 at the time of the match. Middlebury had met the Mules twice earlier in the season and pulled out two wins with blowout scores of 8-1 and 7-2, respectively. The Panther players knew, however, that Colby would not roll over lightly in such a competitive arena. The men came through with a 7-2 victory and proceeded to the finals on Sunday against Bowdoin, another formidable foe.

The Bowdoin Polar Bears had proved an insurmountable obstacle throughout the season. The Panthers dropped two matches to the team,

both by a narrow 5-4 margin.

"Bowdoin is definitely a major rival; we lost to them twice this season and our girls' team lost to them three times," said Lysohir. "We knew this was our shot to take them down. They were tired from a nail-biter with Tufts the night before. Conditions were perfect."

#18 Bowdoin was determined to pull out a third win but they were met by seasoned Middlebury players eager to avenge past losses. Ultimately, the Panthers edged Bowdoin and came away with a 5-4 win.

"Simon Keyes '10 stepped up and had a big win at #8 to help us take down Bowdoin," said Lysohir. "Dependably strong performances by co-captain JP Sardi '09, Valentine Quan-Miranda '12, Brian Cady '11 and Eliot Jia '10 helped give us four other solid wins."

The C-flight win solidified Middlebury's #17 rank to cap off the season. In addition to the win, the squad was the recipient of the Team Sportsmanship Award.

"The team sportsmanship award is some-

thing we're very happy about," said Lysohir. "Squash is full of cumbersome rules and etiquette and it's quite easy for let/stroke calls and arguments to get out of hand. I am proud of the whole team for conducting themselves, both in play and in refereeing, so nicely and so respectfully. Sportsmanship is one of the few things we can have a lot of control over, so it is good to know that we're doing a good job. It's also great to be recognized by our peers in this regard, I hope the team is known for its sportsmanship for years to come."

The Team Sportsmanship Award is a well-deserved honor to cap off a successful season. Despite this success, the team is still looking forward to hopefully being placed in the B-flight next year after a win at nationals.

"We're really glad to have peaked this year at nationals," said Lysohir. "The squash season can be long and some teams suffer from burnout; fortunately our whole ladder was injury-free, mentally sound and playing good squash this weekend."

Women's hockey ready for showdown vs. Williams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

That was as close as the Cardinals would come, as Middlebury took over in the third period. Maggie Melberg '12 scored three minutes into the period. Heather McCormack '10 scored another insurance goal for the Panthers late in the period. Nakamura concluded the scoring with a power play goal to send the Cardinals home with a 7-2 loss.

On Saturday, Middlebury concluded their regular season on a high note with a 4-1 win over Hamilton. The Panthers continued to control games with their high powered offense, tough defense and solid goalkeeping that have been

cornerstones of their success this season. As usual, the woman terrorized the opposing goaltender, out-shooting Hamilton 47-8.

For the second game in a row, the Panthers scored with just seconds remaining in the first period. McCormack put Middlebury in the lead with a short handed goal with 18 seconds left in the first off of a great pass from Ashley Bairos '10.

In the second period, the Panthers controlled play from start to finish, only allowing the Continentals one shot while firing 20 of their own. Ireland scored a goal to increase the lead to 2-0. Just 12 seconds later, Vitt netted a loose puck to give the Panthers a 3-0 advantage.

In the third period, Grave Waters '12 added an insurance goal to increase the lead to 4-0. The Continentals were finally able to get a puck in the net when Stephanie Miguel scored her 21st goal of the season late in the game. But Hamilton was unable to pick up any more goals and the game ended with a 4-1 final score.

"We made a lot of changes this past week in practice, but the team adapted well and we had a successful weekend," said Bairos. "Most of all, [the wins] were a great way to end the regular season for our four seniors. Postseason is always exciting for us and I think it has definitely reenergized our team and will help fuel us for these next few weeks."

"It was a solid weekend," added Ireland.

The Panthers begin the NESCAC tournament as the number two seed and will host Williams (8-15-1) this Saturday at 4:00 pm in Kenyon Arena.

sportsbrief

McKenna '09 nominated for the Concannon Award

Jamie McKenna '09 was nominated as a semi-finalist for the ninth Joe Concannon Award on Feb. 18. The award, sponsored by the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston, is presented annually to the best American-born D-II/III hockey player.

A total of 16 players were nominated as semi-finalists, including five NESCAC players. NESCAC players have had great success recently having produced six winners in the past eight years. Middlebury's own Tom Maldonado '08 won the award one year ago.

The list includes 11 forwards, three defensemen and two goalies. Other NESCAC nominees include Amherst's Jeff Landers '09, Trinity's Chris Diozzi '09, Connecticut College's Brett Moore '10 and Tufts' Tom DeRosa '11.

The senior forward leads the team in both assists and points this season with 18 and 31, respectively. He also ranks third among his teammates with 13 goals. Throughout his career at Middlebury, McKenna has netted 44 goals along with 68 assists for a total of 112 career points.

— Kevin Carpenter, Sports Editor

Suppan '09 leads swim team to 4th

By Molly West

STAFF WRITER

There was no sign of fatigue among the Panther swimmers this weekend in the NESCAC Championships at Bowdoin. The swimmers took to the pool with confidence and poise and finished in fourth place. The team collected 1,047 points, falling just behind Tufts, which took third place with 1145 points. Williams and Amherst took first and second place, respectively.

The meet was particularly special for the senior class, as it was the first NESCAC appearance for seniors Mary Roberts, Meg Whitaker, Susan Read and Bobbi Heidbreder. The excitement of the meet motivated many Panthers to break personal and school records. Kelsey Allen '12 swam her strongest meet yet at Middlebury, dropping several seconds from her backstroke times. Emily McDonald '11 seized the 50-yard freestyle, breaking the school record with a time of 23.92. She also impressively swam into second place in the 50-yard freestyle, breaking another school record.

Tri-captain Catherine Suppan '09 also amassed points for the team with a second-place finish and a school record in the 100-yard breaststroke and a third-place finish in the 50-yard backstroke. Jessie Ward '12 also had a strong performance, placing third in the 100-yard breaststroke. Rookie diver Meagan Collins had a superb first NESCAC showing by placing fourth in the one-meter and third in the three-meter dives. Katie Soja '10 took fourth place in the 1,000-meter freestyle. Not only were there numerous individual accomplishments throughout the meet, but the relay teams also competed strongly.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team finished in third place, as did the 400-yard freestyle relay team. Most impressively, the 200-yard medley relay team swam into second place and created a new school record with a time of 1:46.27. The team will represent Middlebury College at the Division III NCAA Championships in four weeks.

"The team really came together, and could not have asked for a better championship meet," said Suppan. The team finished the regular season with a record of 5 and 4, but could not be happier with their final showing.

"The meet went better than anyone could have expected or hoped," said Suppan. "Almost everyone got personal bests in almost all of their events, and the girls' attitudes were positive the whole meet."

A handful of Middlebury Swimmers will compete at the Division III National Championships in a month.

Magill '11 ties school record in 600-meter run

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

ter run, setting a new personal record and tying the school record.

"We had a very bottom-heavy team," said captain Kelley Coughlan '09. "The underclassmen are stepping up and it's really nice to see us coming together at this point in the season."

Kaitlynn Saldanha '11 followed up her great performance last week with another strong showing. She finished second in the 800-meter run, coming in at 2:16 and qualifying for Nationals in the process. She also anchored the 4x800 meter relay that came in fifth at 9:46.

"The past few weeks she has been running

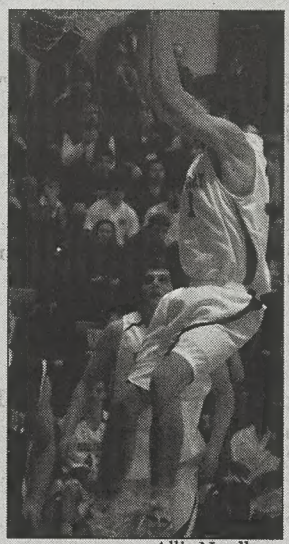
really well," said Coughlan.

From here, the focus will continue to be preparing for the spring season. There are no more team meets until the spring trip to San Diego, but some Panthers qualified for Open New England's next weekend. This meet will have all of the same schools from this past weekend, as well as Division I and II schools. For the men, Schmidt and Dede qualified, and for the women, Coughlan, Jen Brenes '09 and many of the distance runners qualified as well.

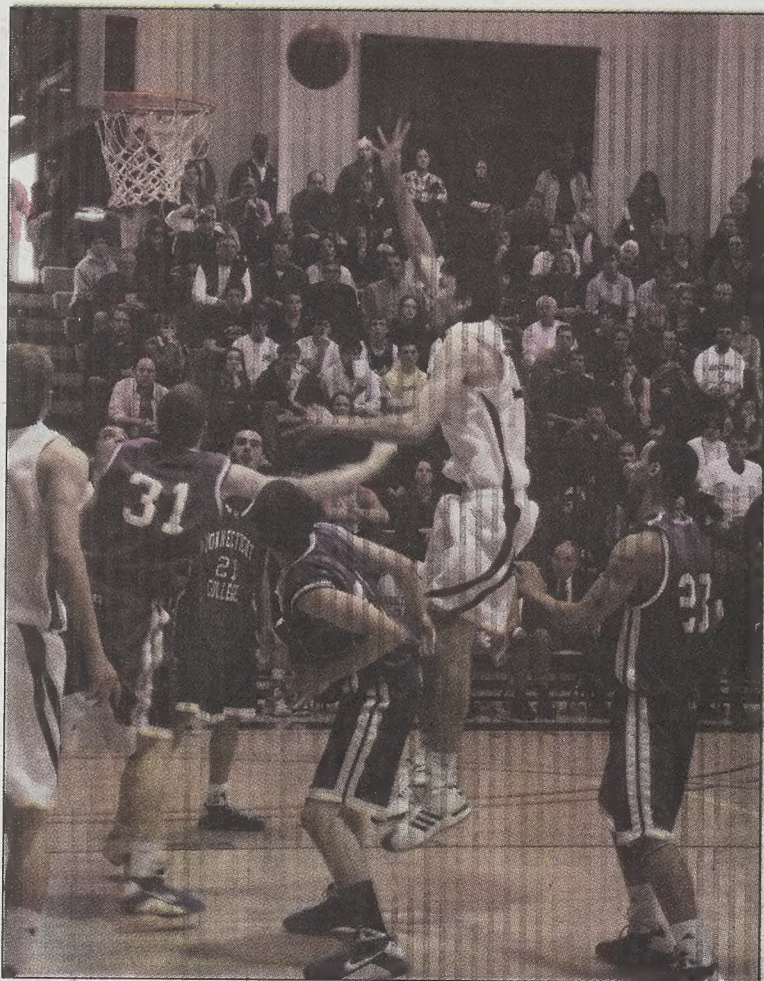
"The focus of the track season is the spring competition," said Fowler. "We're really excited to get things rolling during the spring."

The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	2/19	Team	Carpenter's Comments
1	1	Men's b-ball (22-3)	The men once again assert their dominance with a convincing win. Rudin '09 drops 29 points and Locke '11 drops the crowds' jaws with three monstrous dunks.
2	6	Men's squash (15-10)	Great 17th-place finish for the men at team nationals. The program is only in its infancy but they are already competing with the big shots.
3	2	Skiing	I wanted a first-place finish from the team. Unfortunately, third-place has left me as unsatisfied as I feel after a Sunday night FIC dinner.
4	7	Swimming & diving	Impressive showing for the women at NESCACs. It looks like the team has ignored Michael Phelps' actions and kept their eyes on the pool and off of their bongs.
5	3	Women's hockey (16-3-4)	Women are going strong into the playoffs. I expect the Ephs to leave from Middlebury defeated, saddened and crushed.
6	4	Men's hockey (17-6-1)	The squad tried to orchestrate an epic comeback against Amherst but fell short. At least we can expect a beating on Hamilton in the quarterfinals.
7	5	Indoor track	Not the best of showings at New England's. I expect the Panthers to perform better outdoors once their feet begin to thaw.
8	—	Ice sculptors	You all are the true athletes. The shark, brick building and McCullough orgy were all magnificent. Brilliant.



Allie Needham
Andrew Locke '11 was nothing short of beastly this past Saturday against Connecticut College.



Andrew Locke '11 puts up a sweeping hook shot over several Conn. College defenders. His solid play helped propel Middlebury to a 78-62 first round win.

Skiers take third in home carnival

By Martin Breu
STAFF WRITER

Despite a solid effort across the board by the Panther ski team, Dartmouth and UVM stole the show last weekend at the 86th annual Middlebury Carnival. Dartmouth extended its winning streak to five straight victories but the UVM Catamounts weren't far behind in second. Middlebury had numerous strong performances but lacked the consistency to place higher than third.

On Friday morning, Middlebury woke up to six inches of new snow that caused both the alpine and nordic events to be delayed to allow for more grooming. The UVM alpine skiers must have liked the new snow, as David Donaldson and Megan Ryley won the men's and women's races, respectively.

Co-captain Andrew Wagner '09 led the Panthers at the Snow Bowl with a solid third place finish in the slalom race, while Jake Lund '11 placed tenth.



Mike Bayersdorfer
Co-captain Jonathan Hunter '10 races down the mountain for the alpine team.

On the women's side, Mattie Ford '09 and Natasha Woodworth '11 shared the top Middlebury finish, as they tied for sixth place. The women's alpine team finished the day in third, while the men placed in fourth.

Over at the Rikert Ski Touring Center where the nordic races were held, the skiers raced a 10k classic mass-start race. Just behind the yellow buildings of the Bread Loaf School of English campus, the races unfolded as the skiers tore up the course.

The UVM men were dominant, taking the top two spots — Franz Bernstein broke away from fellow German skier Juergen Uhl in the final home stretch to take the individual win. Patrick Johnson '11 had a solid race to finish ninth and lead the Panthers; Simi Hamilton '09 started the race strong but faded to finish tenth.

In the women's nordic race, Dartmouth dominated, placing four skiers in the top 10, with Rosie

SEE McLAUGHRY '10, PAGE 22

Panthers kick off NESCAC tourney with convincing win over Camels

By Jeff Klein
SPORTS EDITOR

Before Middlebury's NESCAC quarterfinal home game, the first 200 fans to show up got free t-shirts reading "bringin' it home to PEPIN." The Panthers made sure that the remainder of the NESCAC tournament will, in fact, be played within the confines of Pepin Gymnasium.

With a combination of tenacious defense and deadly outside shooting, the Middlebury men's basketball team stormed out to an early lead and routed Connecticut College 78-62 in its NESCAC quarterfinal matchup this past Saturday, Feb. 21. The Panther win means that the other three teams who advanced out of the first round will play the rest of their tournament games at Middlebury.

The Panthers will face Bowdoin in the semifinals this Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m., while Amherst and Williams will square off in the other semifinal matchup in Pepin at 4 p.m. The winners of the two games will meet in the NESCAC championship on Sunday at 12 p.m.

"Our goal going into this season was to bring the playoffs home

to Pepin," said Andrew Locke '11, who played an instrumental role in the win. "We have the best fans in the NESCAC and there's no better feeling than playing in front of them."

Feeding off the enthusiasm of the raucous home crowd, decked out almost entirely in white, the Panthers roared out of the gate and quickly set the tone for the entire game. Their only deficits were 2-0 and 5-4, and those became distant memories once Middlebury went on a 17-2 tear and established a 21-7 lead with 14:15 left in the first half.

Ben Rudin '09 and Kyle Dudley '09 — the senior sensations from Scarsdale — were major catalysts in the run. Rudin scored the initial eight points of the spurt and Dudley followed suit with two of his trademark threes.

The onslaught was only beginning, though. Rookie Ryan Sharry '12, who has played an important role this season coming off the bench for Locke or Aaron Smith '09, scored a quick pair of buckets. Rudin then drained a three, and the lead was suddenly 28-9.

While it was clearly no time to

get complacent, the Panthers could sense nonetheless that this was their game. Jamal Davis '11 scored on a nifty buzzer-beater to end the first half, and Middlebury went into the break having doubled up Conn. College by a score of 46-23.

The Panthers continued their excellent play in the second stanza, with Locke in particular lighting up

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Connecticut College	62
Middlebury	78

the gymnasium. In addition to altering or swatting seemingly every shot his man threw up — he finished with four blocks on the day — the 6'10" sophomore center threw down two thunderous dunks within the span of two minutes early in the second half. Another emphatic dunk followed by a block on the defensive end of the floor prompted chants of "THIS IS LOCKE'S HOUSE!" from the Middlebury faithful.

"The atmosphere of Saturday's game was one of the best I've ever played in," he said. "Coming up

SEE MEN'S B-BALL, PAGE 21



Allie Needham
Julia Ireland '11 gets in between a pair of Wesleyan defenders and rifles a shot past the Cardinal goaltender.

Women's hockey shines at home

By Andrew DeLoach
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury women's hockey team secured two more wins last weekend to finish the regular season with a 16-3-4 record. On Friday, Feb. 20, the women defeated Wesleyan (2-21-1) by a score of 7-2. The Panthers kept up their impressive skating as they ousted Hamilton (9-13-2) on Saturday with a 4-1 final.

The Middlebury women continue to hassle opposing goalies. Friday night's victim was Wesleyan's Rachel Stemerma. She faced an offensive barrage that has been a trademark of the Panthers this season. Friday was no different as Middlebury outshot the Cardinals 48-11. On the season, the Panthers have outshot their opponents 855-471.

Julia Ireland '11 began the scor-

ing by dumping in a loose puck in front of the net with 5 minutes remaining in the first period. Molly Vitt '09 added a goal with 22 seconds left in the first by assisting a shot fired by Nora Bergman '11.

In the second period, Middlebury extended the lead to 3-0 when Anna McNally '11 netted her ninth goal of the season. Not to be outdone, senior Erika Nakamura scored her ninth goal of the season just 53 seconds later, increasing the lead to 4-0. As the period wound down, Wesleyan got back into the game

with a goal from Sena Ito, followed by another from Molly Friedman. The period came to a close with the Cardinals trailing by a 4-2 margin.

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 23



Allie Needham
Jess Bennett '10 fires a shot against the Continentals.

this week in sports

Men's hockey

Men fall to Amherst but salvage weekend with dominant win over Hamilton, page 20.



games to watch

Men's basketball vs. Bowdoin, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.
Men's hockey vs. Hamilton, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m.



Men's squash

The men's team sweeps through its flight and finishes the season ranked 17th in the nation, page 23